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Mum inspired by brave adopted son calls on ministers to close 'massive loophole'

VIOLENT THUGS WILL BE KEPT OFF CHILD ABUSE REGISTER

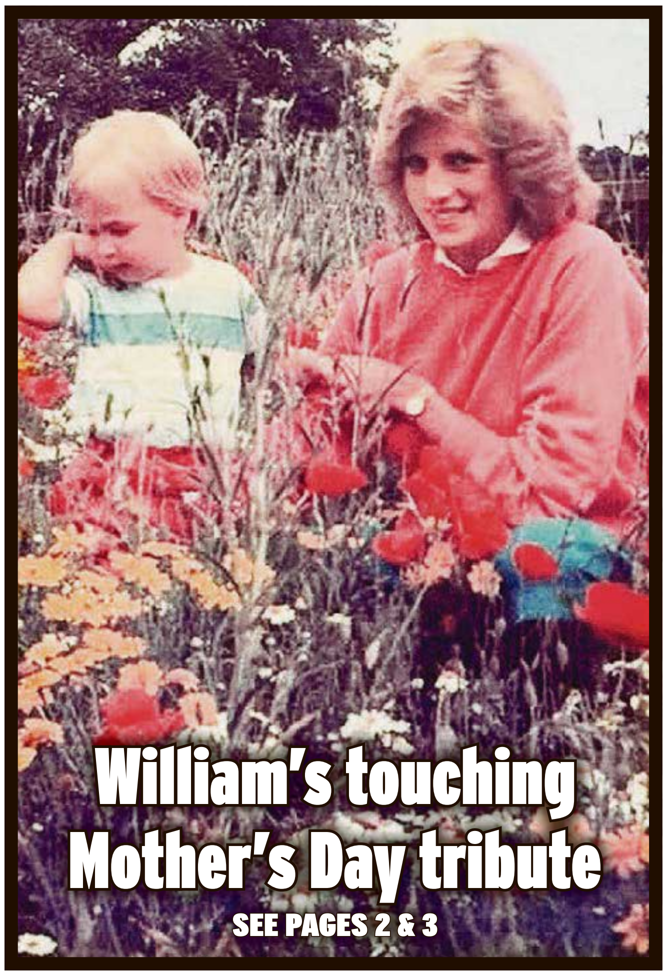
BY **MICHAEL KNOWLES** Home Affairs Editor

THE mum who won her fight for a national Child Cruelty Register is warning of a loophole that leaves violent thugs off the list.

Paula Hudgell says those convicted of ABH or GBH are not to be named under current plans due to fears it would overwhelm police.

She said: "That's not a good enough excuse

TURN TO PAGE 4



William's touching Mother's Day tribute

SEE PAGES 2 & 3

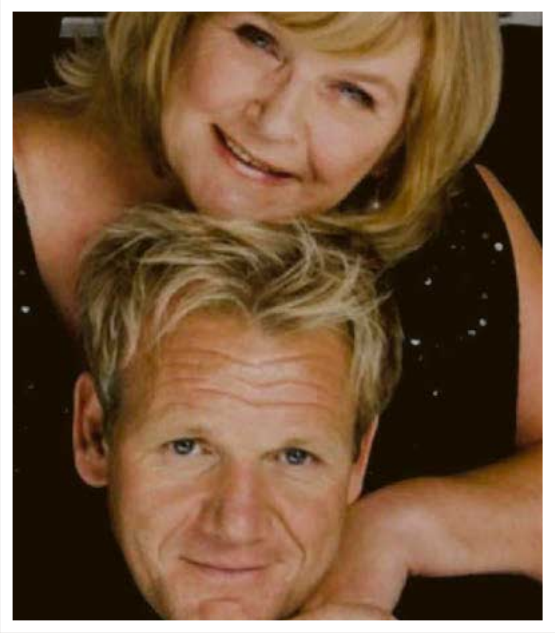
Remembering my mother, today and every day

Shirley Ballas hugs mum Audrey, whom she describes as 'my best friend, my world' in an emotional tribute

Alison Hammond pays tribute to her late mum Maria

Davina McCall gives stepmum Gaby a cuddle

TV host Holly Willoughby with her mum Linda and sister Kelly


TV chef Gordon Ramsay alongside his mother Helen

BY **EMILY FERGUSON**
Royal Editor

PRINCESS Diana looks radiantly happy alongside a toddler Prince William in a flower meadow, in this previously unseen image shared by the Prince of Wales as he said he remembers her "every day".

The photo, taken at the family's main home at Highgrove in Gloucestershire in 1984, shows the young Diana enjoying a sunny day with her eldest son.

He is just two years old in the photo, wearing a striped top and red trousers as he gazes at a poppy.

Diana sits cross-legged beside him wearing a rose pink jumper and jeans as she smiles shyly at the camera through her fringe.

The picture from the Royal Family's private collection was released for Mother's Day on Kensington Palace's official social media pages. William, 43, wrote alongside it: "Remembering my mother, today and every day.

"Thinking of all those who are remembering someone they love today."

Diana, who died aged 36 following a road accident in Paris on August 31, 1997, would have turned 65 on July 1 this year.

Buckingham Palace also released three archive photos showcasing the current and two former queens.

One black and white image shows a young Queen Elizabeth II, who appears to be arriving at Westminster Abbey alongside her mother, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

Both women are clutching their wide-brimmed hats to keep them from blowing away in the wind.

The second family photo shows Queen Elizabeth sitting on a garden bench at Balmoral in 1953, with her two eldest children, Charles and Anne.

The trio are joined by the Queen's corgi, Sue, in the background.

Charles's younger siblings, Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor and Prince Edward, had not yet been born when the photo was taken.

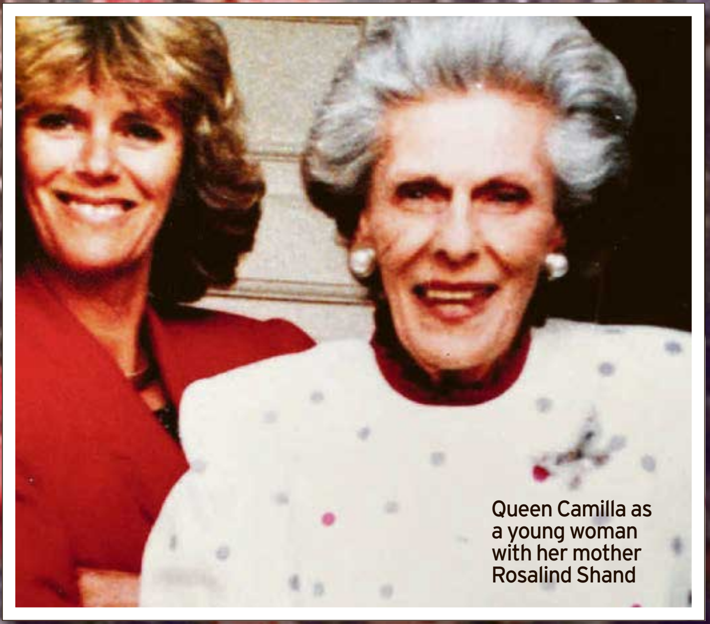
A final snap shows a grinning Queen Camilla as a young woman with her late mother, Rosalind Shand.

A message alongside the three images read: "Wishing mothers everywhere, and those who might be missing their mums today, a restful Mothering Sunday."

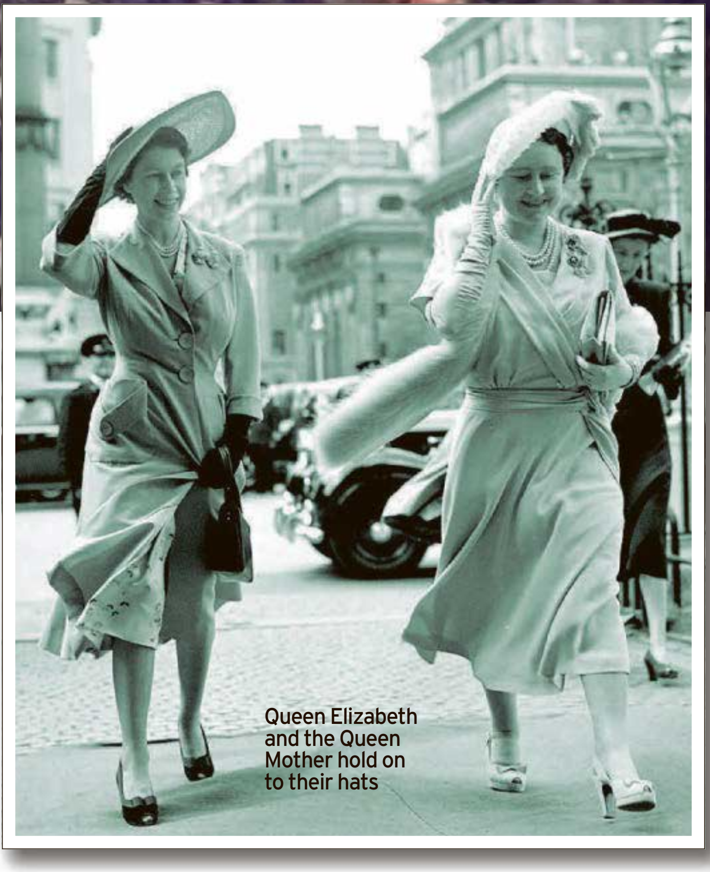
Elsewhere, proving every mum is the

TO TRAGIC DIANA

Princess Diana with a young Prince William at Highgrove in 1984; right, the late Queen Elizabeth II with a young Charles and Anne



Queen Camilla as a young woman with her mother Rosalind Shand



Queen Elizabeth and the Queen Mother hold on to their hats

> **‘Thank you for a lifetime of love, guidance and the most beautiful memories. I wouldn’t be the person I am today without you by my side’**

queen of her own family, celebrities also posted images to mark the special day.

Davina McCall, 58, paid a warm tribute to stepmother Gaby for helping her through her recent health traumas, including surgery to remove a brain tumour and a breast cancer diagnosis.

Posting a picture of them together on Instagram, Davina wrote: “Thank you for always being there, for your care, love, patience, hugs (even though I never want to let go) especially in the last 16 months.”

TV chef Gordon Ramsay, 59, posted a picture of his mum Helen, 79, saying: “Thank you for everything you do so relentlessly each and every day.”

This Morning host Alison Hammond, 51, shared an image of herself hugging and laughing with her beloved mother Maria, who died aged 72 in 2020 from lung and liver cancer.

Holly Willoughby, 45, posted a photo of herself alongside mum Linda and sister Kelly, with three identical smiles.

And Strictly Come Dancing judge Shirley Ballas, 65, paid an emotional tribute to her mother Audrey, 88, whom she described as “my best friend, my world”, and the “most extraordinary woman in my life”.

She added: “Thank you for a lifetime of love, guidance and the most beautiful memories.

“I truly wouldn’t be the person I am today or be where I am today without you by my side.

“You made it all possible for me, and for that I will be forever grateful.”

OPINION: PAGE 12

TONY HUDGELL'S HERO MOTHER

'The main reason they left out GBH is because they think police will be overwhelmed by those offences. That's not a good enough excuse not to have it on the register'

FROM PAGE ONE

not to have that on the register."

Mrs Hudgell, whose adopted son Tony was horrifically injured by his birth parents, secured a major victory when the government agreed to create a database to keep track of convicted abusers.

Like those on the sex offender register, those convicted of child cruelty would have to tell police if they move home, change their name, start a new relationship, travel abroad or stay in a house for 12 hours or more with children.

The database would be linked to that used in Clare's Law, which allows women to check if a partner has a violent history.

This means parents could, for the first time, find out if their new partners have a history of abuse towards children.

Campaigners hope the register could be introduced next year, listing those convicted of child cruelty, abandonment or neglect, female genital mutilation and infanticide.

However, it is understood policy chiefs do not want to overwhelm the police by leaving them too many fiends to monitor.

Mrs Hudgell told the Daily Express that in some cases an abuser could be charged with GBH and ABH, and not child cruelty, which would mean they do not qualify for the list.

She said: "They won't then be on the register.

"But if the other parent allowed that to happen, they would be convicted of causing or allowing child cruelty, and they will end up on the register.

"The main perpetrator, if you like, will almost just get prosecuted for GBH and avoid it. So, to me, that's a massive loophole. The reason they left it out is they think the police will be overwhelmed with those offences."

EXPRESS VOTE

Should all those convicted of harming children be on the Child Cruelty Register?

YES: 0901 133 4440
NO: 0901 133 4441
Calls cost 50p plus network access charge

Yes text DXYES to 63333
No text DXNO to 63333
Texts cost 50p plus standard network rate

You must have the bill payer's permission. Vote closes at midnight tonight. The Daily Express may contact you by post, SMS and/or email with offers, goods or services that may be of interest to you. To stop receiving SMS messages text 'NSNOINFO' to the originating number. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390.

Shadow Solicitor General Helen Grant warned that some violent thugs could escape being placed on the register.

The Tory said: "I will continue to campaign for a more comprehensive register."

Ministers last month finally agreed to introduce a Child Cruelty Register following an eight-year campaign backed by the Daily Express.

Double amputee Tony, 11, praised his heroic mother, saying: "I'm so proud of her for getting this register.

"Many more people will get the life that they deserve, without having to go through what I had to go through.

"The worst thing is, why would someone do that to a child?"

Tony was just a 41-day-old infant when Jody Simpson and her partner Anthony Smith attacked him, causing multiple fractures and dislocations and blunt trauma to the face, leading to organ failure, toxic shock and sepsis.

He was left untreated and in agony for 10 days, and because of the extent of his injuries both his legs had to be amputated.

Simpson and Smith were jailed for 10 years in 2018. Under Mrs Hudgell's proposals, police would be able to monitor child abusers to prevent them attacking more youngsters.

The campaigning mum said: "I always said that if it only saved one life, then it is absolutely worth everything.

"I honestly believe that this register will save many lives.

"As a mum I never, ever want another child to go through what Tony endured and what Tony endures every day.

"We know there are so many cases out there.

"We're never going to stop it completely, but hopefully these ones that currently slip through the net, we will now be able to protect them. Sex offenders are the most vile people in our community.

'I never want another child to go through what Tony endured'

"But those who are just as vile in our community are people that hurt children."

Brave Mrs Hudgell is continuing her fight to save children's lives while undergoing gruelling treatment for stage 4 bowel cancer.

She said: "I need to get over that hurdle in my cancer treatment. Then I will be pushing for the changes on the register going forward, trying to bring those in."

Asked how she finds the strength to continue campaigning while undergoing the punishing treatment, Mrs Hudgell said: "I think that's me.

"I'm a busy person, and it drives me as well. I think that's what I need. It's what gives me the extra fire in my belly."

Mrs Hudgell told how when she finally won her long battle to have the register introduced, she initially thought: "Oh, what am I going to do now?"

She added: "Then 24 hours later it was like, 'actually, it's not quite right, it's not

ON CHILD CRUELTY LOOPHOLE

Paula Hudgell with Tony, who she adopted after he was attacked by his birth parents as a baby

quite where we wanted it." The campaigning mum said she hoped police and prosecutors would now overhaul how they handle child cruelty cases, by creating specialist teams dedicated to the vile crimes.

She added: "You have a murder department, you have a rape department, they're very, very specialist.

"But there is nothing for child cruelty, and child cruelty is one of the hardest cases to prove in court, especially if the child is still alive like Tony.

"Quite often when they've died, then it's easier because it's easier to pinpoint the injuries and everything else because of the postmortem.

"Cases like Tony's, where these children are still alive, it is so difficult to actually get the evidence because they don't have a voice. We need to be able to get these cases to court to be able to get these people that should be on these registers, or on this register."

A Home Office spokesman said: "The government are taking decisive action to protect our children from those who would commit abhorrent crimes against them."

They added: "Alongside the child cruelty register, we are promoting the use of civil orders to replicate the register's requirements, including for GBH offences."

'Child cruelty is one of the hardest cases to prove in court'

OPINION: PAGE 12

TO READ ALL THE BEST POLITICAL STORIES OF THE DAY GO TO EXPRESS.CO.UK/POLITICS

COMMENT

HELEN GRANT

Shadow Solicitor General and Conservative MP for Maidstone and Malling

BEFORE my constituent Paula Hudgell began campaigning for a Child Cruelty Register, few people realised there is a glaring gap in the law: individuals convicted of the most serious offences against children can disappear from view once their sentences expire.

After release, there is no long-term system to track them, no requirement to remain on the radar of police or probation, and no way for families or communities to understand the risks they may still pose.

Paula's determination is rooted in the horrific abuse suffered by her adopted son, Tony.

At just 41 days old, he was subjected to such extreme abuse by his birth parents that both of his legs had to be amputated.

They each received 10-year sentences, yet were released after just eight. Although they remain under supervision for the rest of their licence period, the oversight ends when the sentence does.

We know from experience that offenders can relocate, change their identities, and disengage from services to avoid scrutiny.

Creating a Child Cruelty Register, modelled on the existing sex offender register, would help to close this loophole.

It would introduce mandatory notification requirements, a breach of which would constitute a criminal offence.

Vanish

It would also allow for ongoing management and monitoring by police and the probation service.

And it would provide the tools needed to protect children and give the public confidence that serious offenders cannot simply vanish once their sentence ends.

A Conservative amendment to the Sentencing Bill to establish a Child Cruelty Register was voted down before Christmas.

Recently, the same amendment was again tabled to the Crime and Policing Bill, now at report stage in the House of Lords.

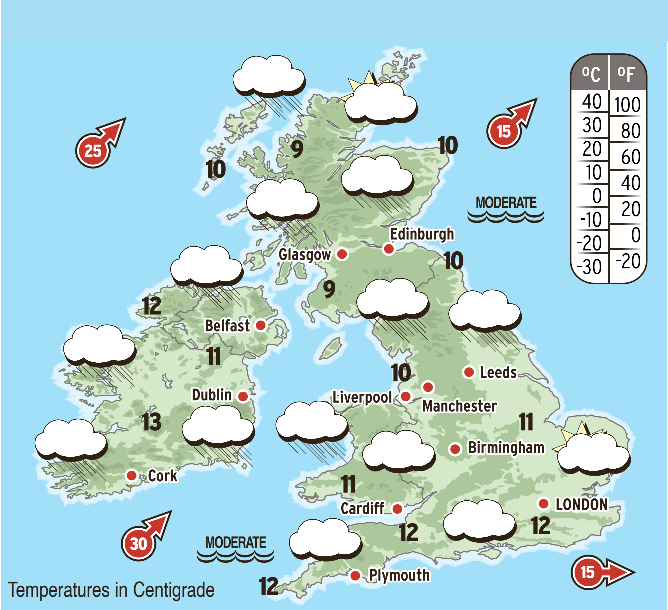
Following my meetings with Home Office ministers, justice ministers and the Deputy Prime Minister, the government has now accepted the principle of our campaign and tabled its own amendment to introduce a Child Cruelty Register.

However, the offences included could lead to some serious violent child cruelty offences not being captured and I will campaign for a more comprehensive register.

Even so, this vital change in the law will help to ensure those who pose an ongoing risk to children remain visible to the authorities.

No child should ever have to go through what Tony went through. This register recognises that risk does not end at the prison gates, and neither should oversight.

WEATHER FORECAST



Today's summary: Cool start, cloudy by evening

North West: Wet start, clearing to overcast. Winds easing, turning milder through the day. High 10C (50F).

Northern Ireland: Wet start with wintry mix, clearing to overcast. Breezy, becoming mild later. High 12C (54F).

Wales: Cloudy skies dominate. Some sunny spells later. Breezy with mild temperatures. High 11C (52F).

Midlands: Overcast with brief sun. Cloud persists late. Moderate breeze, remaining chilly. High 10C (50F).

North East/Yorks: Cloudy with light rain at times. Sun breaks later. Breezy with mild conditions. High 10C (50F).

Scotland: Overcast with periods of wet weather. Clearing later, breezy with milder temperatures. High 10C (50F).

East Anglia: Cloudy skies, brighter spells later. Breezy with moderate winds, becoming milder. High 11C (52F).

London/South East: Cloudy, brighter later. Breezy throughout, with a mild feel to the day. High 11C (52F).

South: Cloudy, bright spells later. Breezy with mild temperatures. High 11C (52F).

South West: Cloudy spells, bright intervals later. Breezy with mild temperatures. High 11C (52F).

Channel Isles: Cloudy with some sun later. Gentle breezes, mild temperatures throughout the day. High 11C (52F).

Sea: North Sea: Moderate. Irish Sea: Moderate. Channel: Vrough.

UK OUTLOOK TOMORROW: Expect mild conditions with occasional rain, mostly cloudy skies, and moderate winds. Temperatures will be cool throughout the day.

SIX-DAY FORECAST

Temperatures in Centigrade

	TUE			WED			THU			FRI			SAT			SUN		
		min	max		min	max		min	max		min	max		min	max		min	max
London	⛅	5	14	☀	6	19	☀	6	17	⛅	4	14	⛅	5	12	⛅	6	14
Belfast	🌧	5	13	⛅	5	12	☀	4	12	⛅	3	12	⛅	5	12	⛅	5	10
Birmingham	⛅	4	14	☀	6	17	⛅	4	15	⛅	3	12	⛅	4	12	☁	5	12
Cardiff	⛅	5	14	☀	6	17	☀	5	16	⛅	4	12	⛅	5	12	☁	6	12
Glasgow	🌧	7	12	⛅	5	12	⛅	4	12	⛅	4	12	⛅	4	12	⛅	4	11
Manchester	⛅	5	15	⛅	7	16	⛅	4	14	⛅	3	12	☀	4	13	☁	4	12
Newcastle	⛅	8	15	⛅	7	15	⛅	4	10	⛅	3	10	⛅	4	11	⛅	4	10
Norwich	⛅	4	15	☀	5	16	⛅	5	14	⛅	4	11	⛅	5	11	⛅	5	11
Plymouth	⛅	7	12	☀	8	15	☀	7	14	☀	5	12	⛅	6	12	⛅	6	12

Britain yesterday

24 hours to 5pm	SUN (hrs)	RAIN (ins)	TEMP (min)	(max)
Aberdeen	2.1	0.01	4	9
Aberporth	4.8	0.06	4	10
Alnwick	4.0	0.06	3	9
Belfast	2.8	0.10	6	10
Birmingham	5.0	0.00	2	11
B'mouth	6.9	0.00	3	11
Bristol	5.3	0.06	4	11
Cardiff	5.1	0.05	2	12
Durham	6.1	0.04	4	11
Edinburgh	2.6	0.04	4	9
Glasgow	2.8	0.27	3	8
Hull	6.4	0.04	3	11
Ipswich	8.5	0.01	1	12
Leeds	6.2	0.02	4	10
Lincoln	6.6	0.00	4	11
London	8.3	0.00	2	11
Manchester	4.6	0.06	3	11
Oxford	6.7	0.00	-1	12
S'hampton	7.0	0.00	3	12
St Andrews	2.4	0.01	3	8

Moon, sun and tides

MOON rises: 5.25am, sets: 3.01pm
SUN rises London: 6.12am, sets: 6.06pm
Manchester rises: 6.21am, sets: 6.14pm

● **New Moon**
19 March

HIGH TIDE

London B'ge	(-), (12.09pm)
Liverpool	(9.27am), (9.57pm)
Greenock	(10.54am), (11.19pm)
Dover	(9.23am), (9.41pm)

Britain Extremes:
(24 hours to 11pm Saturday)

Warmest: Cardiff, 13c (56f).
Coldest: Katesbridge, -4c (25f).
Wettest: Achnagart, 0.39ins.
Sunniest: Yeovilton, 10.8hrs.

Lighting-up times

Belfast	6.29pm-6.33am
Birmingham	6.13pm-6.17am
Bristol	6.16pm-6.20am
Glasgow	6.22pm-6.27am
London	6.06pm-6.10am
Manchester	6.14pm-6.18am
Newcastle	6.12pm-6.16am

Europe forecast

Today

Amsterdam	Cloudy	10C/50F
Brussels	Cloudy	12C/54F
Dublin	Rain	12C/54F
Frankfurt	Showers	12C/54F
Geneva	Fair	12C/54F
Lisbon	Sunny	22C/72F
Madrid	Sunny	20C/68F
Paris	Cloudy	13C/55F
Rome	Fair	19C/66F

Tomorrow

Amsterdam	Fair	15C/59F
Brussels	Fair	16C/61F
Dublin	Cloudy	13C/55F
Frankfurt	Cloudy	13C/55F
Geneva	Sunny	15C/59F
Lisbon	Sunny	21C/70F
Madrid	Sunny	22C/72F
Paris	Sunny	17C/63F
Rome	Sunny	20C/68F

Around the world yesterday

		C	F
Amsterdam	Sunny	10	50
Athens	Sunny	16	61
Barcelona	Sunny	16	61
Berlin	Shwrs	7	45
Budapest	Sunny	14	57
Cairo	Sunny	19	66
Cape Town	Sunny	30	86
Casablanca	Cloudy	17	63
Corfu	Sunny	16	61
Dublin	Shwrs	9	48
Dubrovnik	Sunny	16	61
Faro	Sunny	18	64
Florence	Fair	18	64
Gibraltar	Sunny	17	63
Guernsey	Cloudy	10	50
Hong Kong	Sunny	22	72
Istanbul	Cloudy	9	48
Jersey	Cloudy	10	50
Larnaca	Thndr	16	61
Las Palmas	Fair	20	68
Los Angeles	Sunny	25	77
Luxor	Sunny	22	72
Malaga	Sunny	19	66
Mallorca	Cloudy	13	55
Malta	Thndr	17	63
Melbourne	Fair	24	75
Miami	Sunny	28	82
Moscow	Sunny	3	37
Nairobi	Fair	24	75
New Delhi	Sunny	27	81
New York	Fair	10	50
Nice	Shwrs	14	57
Nicosia	Shwrs	15	59
Perth	Sunny	28	82
Prague	Cloudy	7	45
Singapore	Thndr	29	84
Stockholm	Rain	3	37
Sydney	Sunny	26	79
Tel Aviv	Thndr	18	64
Tenerife	Sunny	22	72
Toronto	Fair	0	32
Tunis	Thndr	14	57
Venice	Shwrs	16	61
Vienna	Cloudy	12	54
Warsaw	Fair	16	61

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324,000 children now waiting for vital NHS care

EXCLUSIVE

BY **AARON NEWBURY**

NEARLY 40,500 more children are waiting for NHS community health services since Labour came to power, analysis shows.

Some 323,826 youngsters are stuck on lists for the specialist support – a 14.3% rise.

Health Secretary Wes Streeting has repeatedly stated that shifting care "from hospital to community" is a key to his strategy.

The services include speech therapy and physiotherapy as well as care for babies with developmental delays and neurodisabilities.

Shadow Health Secretary Stuart Andrew said: "Labour made big promises in opposition but are finding the reality of office is much harder.

"Despite repeated claims to be prioritising a shift from hospital to community, we are seeing more people waiting for community health services, with children being worst affected.

"Any talk of waiting lists being cut will ring hollow to the thousands more people waiting for vital community services."

In June 2024, the month before Labour won, 283,369 children were waiting for community health services. By December last year, this had risen by 40,457.

Adult waiting lists – including support for diabetes, heart failure and motor neurone disease as well as physiotherapy, podiatry and occupational therapy – rose from 783,621 to 824,131 over the same period.

Care for disabled babies is among the services hit. Inset, Mr Streeting

This was an increase of 40,510, or 5.2%. Moving care "from hospital to community" is one of the Mr Streeting's biggest pledges.

He said in November 2024: "By now you will be familiar with the three big shifts that will underpin our 10-year plan for health: from hospital to community; from analogue to digital; from sickness to prevention.

"These shifts are not radical new ideas, but delivering them truly would be."

The Department of Health and Social Care said last night: "We are reforming the health service to shift its focus from hospital to community.

"It will take time to fix after more than a decade of decline, but we have a plan to modernise the NHS."

Two dead, 11 in hospital as meningitis hits students

BY **STEPHEN BEECH**

MENINGITIS has killed two students and put 11 others in hospital.

The two who died were studying at the University of Kent.

Those in hospital were young adults from the Canterbury area.

More than 30,000 students, staff and their families have been informed of the outbreak by the UK Health Security Agency.

It is arranging antibiotics for some students in the Canterbury area, although the specific strain of the disease has not been identified.

The brain bug, which also affects the spinal cord, can cause symptoms including fever, nausea and a severe and worsening headache. It can also trigger lethal sepsis.

Another telltale sign is a rash which does not fade when a glass is rolled over it.

The UKHSA said students might confuse meningitis symptoms for "a bad cold, flu, or even a hangover". It added: "Close contacts of cases have been given antibiotics as a precaution." Anyone with symptoms is urged to call 999 or go to A&E.

CORRECTIONS AND COMPLAINTS

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OPINION **12** SUDOKU **24** TV **33** LETTERS **38** STARS **40** SPORT **43** **PLUS** PUZZLES PULLOUT

WAR IN IRAN RAGES ON

UK is poised to answer Trump's call for help to open Strait of Hormuz

A UAE-registered cargo ship in the Strait of Hormuz yesterday. Below, Britain's RFA Lyme Bay

BY **AARON NEWBURY**

BRITISH minesweeping drones could be sent to the Middle East as the government backs Donald Trump's call to unblock a vital shipping lane.

Sir Keir Starmer spoke with the US leader last night about "the importance of reopening the Strait of Hormuz to end the disruption to global shipping, which is driving up costs worldwide".

A Downing Street spokeswoman added: "The Prime Minister also expressed his condolences for the American service personnel who have lost their lives during the conflict. They agreed to keep in touch."

Earlier, Energy Secretary Ed Miliband confirmed the government was "talking to allies" and "intensively" looking at what can be done to reopen the oil artery, which is being bombarded by Iranian missiles.

Energy bills in the UK have skyrocketed since Iran shut it down in response to attacks by the US and Israel.

Mr Trump demanded on Saturday that the UK join other countries in a task force to reopen the strait, despite saying just a week ago that the US does not "need people that join wars after we've already won".

He also told France and China to send warships – but the French turned him down.

Here, Mr Miliband repeatedly refused to state what aid Britain would provide but said there were "a range of things that we can do, including autonomous minehunting equipment".

A homeowner in Tehran and Israel fires artillery, left

Shadow Energy Secretary Claire Coutinho called for the option to help to be "explored", adding: "Our principle is that we should take action where it is in the national interest and where it is protecting our military assets abroad."

Liberal Democrat leader Sir Ed Davey warned that the government should be "very careful about being dragged into a war that we did not start and is damaging our country and our economy".

Meanwhile, Iranian foreign minister Abbas Araghchi claimed the strait – the only maritime passage to the oil-rich Gulf – was open to all but US and US-allied vessels. He told the London-based news outlet Al-Araby al-Jadeed: "[It] is not generally closed, but only to the US and its allies, and we will continue this policy as long as the attacks [on Iran] continue."

Strikes on Tehran did continue yesterday, while the United Arab Emirates said it was hit by four ballistic missiles and six drones. Israel fired a howitzer artillery gun towards southern Lebanon and said no direct talks were planned to end the war despite conflicting claims from Beirut.

Elsewhere, the UK's designated civilian evacuation and supplies vessel, RFA Lyme Bay, left Gibraltar for possible deployment in the eastern Mediterranean.

The Ministry of Defence said: "As part of prudent planning, she is at heightened readiness as a precaution, should she be needed to assist in maritime tasks."

Warship HMS Dragon is also heading for the region following embarrassing delays that left RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus without naval defence.

COMMENT

CLAIRE COUTINHO

Shadow Energy and Net Zero Secretary

IN what world does it make sense to shut down our gas production in the North Sea just to import more from Norway, which is drilling in the same fields we are closing?

Only in Ed Miliband's world, of course. Because Ed isn't motivated by what's best for our economy or what will make us more resilient but by whatever proves he is a worthy preacher for the net zero religion.

We are sitting on resources that other countries would kill to have. Yet Ed has banned new oil and gas licences and ground the sector to a halt with eye-watering taxes.

He says there's no point drilling because gas is priced on the international market. This is a complete distraction. Shutting down the North Sea means losing £25billion in tax revenue that could fund our armed forces, cut fuel duty, or pay down the national debt for our grandchildren.

Ed says new fields will take years to come online. Again, bogus. The Jackdaw gas field application has been sitting on his desk for months. It could be up and running by the autumn. But he would rather import from halfway across the world.

Meanwhile, British industry is being hammered. Pottery brand Denby is on the brink of collapse, blaming energy costs. Our refineries, chemical and manufacturing sectors are in freefall because we have the highest electricity prices in the developed world.

This has to stop. The world is getting more dangerous and we need to get serious about energy security. Only the Conservatives will double down on nuclear power, back the North Sea and keep electricity cheap.

CHANCELLOR SET TO OFFER FUEL SUBSIDY FOR 'THOSE WHO REALLY NEED IT'

BY **AARON NEWBURY**

BRITONS struggling with rising energy bills could be given a boost, the Chancellor has said.

About 1.5 million households who rely on heating oil are set for a subsidy as the conflict in the Middle East has caused the price per litre to double.

The fuel is not covered by the energy price cap and in an interview with The Times, Rachel Reeves, *left*, said help could be on its way this week.

She added: "I have found the money, and we've worked through with MPs and others a response for people who are not protected by the energy price cap. We're giving greater support to those who really need it."

But critics have suggested that there are better ways to tackle rising energy costs, such as opening new drilling sites in the North Sea or taking more proactive measures to unblock the Strait of Hormuz, which is key to the world's oil supply.

New home for trove of highest bravery medals

Lord Ashcroft at the IWM. Below, Johnson Beharry and, bottom, Chris Finney

BY **GILES SHELDRICK** Chief Reporter

ARMED forces champion Lord Ashcroft's haul of Victoria and George Crosses has a new home at the National Army Museum.

The philanthropist's display of almost 250 VCs and a smaller number of GC medals was removed by the Imperial War Museum in September. Bosses claimed the decision to end the exhibition after 15 years was made in part because so few people who remember the Second World War are alive.

Now Lord Ashcroft says: "I am thrilled to have found such a superb location for this unique collection of gallantry medals. I am so pleased that these VCs and GCs, spanning many major wars and conflicts of the past two centuries, will now be enjoyed by the public once again.

"The National Army Museum shares my passion for the decorations themselves and also to tell the incredible stories of bravery that go with them. I look forward to a long and happy partnership for many years."

The businessman, 80, has amassed the largest collection of VCs in the world since 1986.

He was inspired by his father Lieutenant Eric Ashcroft, who took part in the D-Day landings, storming Sword Beach with The South Lancashire Regiment on June 6, 1944. His VCs and GCs are part of the wider Lord Ashcroft Medal Collection, which includes special forces decorations and medals for valour in the skies and at sea.

The VC, introduced by Queen Victoria in 1856, is Britain and the Commonwealth's most prestigious decoration for valour in the presence of the enemy. The GC, created by George VI in 1940, is Britain and the Commonwealth's most prestigious decoration for gallantry not in the presence of the enemy. It has also been awarded to several civilians.

Lord Ashcroft has said: "As the IWM becomes increasingly woke, I wish it could follow the lead of the Express which could not have done more to support our military veterans and to highlight valour."

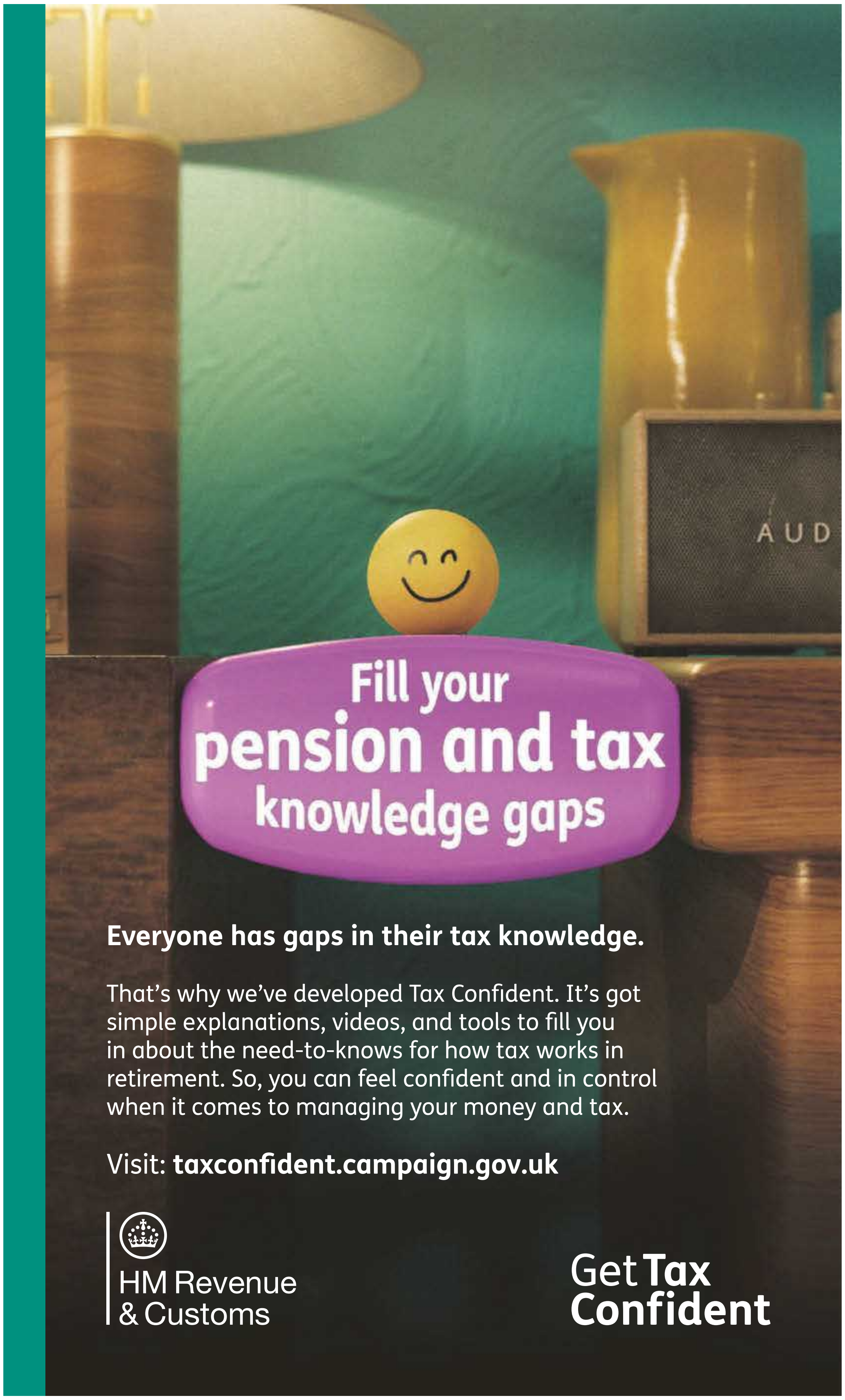
Chris Finney, 41, became the youngest George Cross recipient after risking his life to save comrades in a deadly US friendly fire incident in Iraq in 2003.

He said: "This rare collection spans centuries of military service, sacrifice, and extraordinary bravery across the armed forces. We are privileged to be given the opportunity to share these medals – and the inspiring personal stories they represent – with visitors, and online for the wider public, where they can continue to inspire all ages for generations."

Lord Ashcroft's collection – including the VC awarded to Johnson Beharry for saving comrades in Iraq in 2004 – will be shared on a long-term loan with the National Army Museum, next door to the Royal Hospital Chelsea for veterans in west London. In the coming months it will reveal its plans for them, along with talks and digital content exploring the human stories of courage.

Museum director general Justin Maciejewski said: "We are honoured. "These medals, and the individual acts of extraordinary bravery and valour they represent, form a powerful part of the Army's story."

OPINION: PAGE 12



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And the dinner is...Mick and Nic's Oscars starter

Sir Mick and Nicole were offered pigs in blankets at Chanel do. Best Actress nominee Rose Byrne, below, was also a guest

Jessie got the party started 24 hours early, alongside Nicole, top, with Sunday Rose, left, and Faith

BY **JAN DISLEY**

IT WAS the knight before the fawning after when Sir Mick Jagger and Nicole Kidman partied together at a pre-Oscars dinner.

They were among the stars served pigs in blankets and margarita aperitifs at the Polo Lounge, Beverly Hills Hotel, on Saturday night.

Sir Mick, 82, sported a satin baseball jacket in black after wearing a similar number in rose to last year's bash – and getting ribbed by critics for looking like one of Grease's Pink Ladies.

Nicole, 58, who was due to present an award at last night's ceremony, wore an ivory Chanel skirt suit and had daughters Sunday Rose, 17, and Faith, 15, by her side. Jessie Buckley, 36, who was favourite to win best actress for Hamnet, arrived at the party in a baby blue Chanel number, declaring: 'Let's go, baby!'' She added: ''You can sleep when you're dead!''

Jessie was up against Rose Byrne, 46, for the statuette. Rose, who was nominated for her role in If I Had Legs I'd Kick You, wore a little black dress from their sponsor.

Amandas in demand

Hit comedy calls in famous namesakes for Comic Relief

BY **NICOLA METHVEN**

Amandaland star Lucy Punch

AMANDALAND fans are in for a Red Nose Day treat with a sketch featuring five famous Amandas.

Chaos ensues when South Hackney mum Amanda, played by Lucy Punch, is invited for a "collab" on Radio 2 with her put-upon friend Anne (Philippa Dunne). But when they arrive for their live interview they can barely move without tripping over another Amanda.

BGT's Amanda Holden, travel presenter Amanda Lamb, Corrie favourite Amanda Barrie, Irish TV presenter Amanda Byram and The Traitors' detective Amanda Collier are all involved, wandering around Broadcasting House.

DJ Sara Cox also features, with her overwhelmed radio producer played by Big Mood's Lydia West and a production runner by comic Lucia Keskin.

Amandas Barrie, Byram and Collier. Right, Holden

Amandaland, a spin-off of Motherland, was the BBC's biggest comedy of 2025, with more than seven million tuning in for the Christmas special.

One insider said of the Comic Relief sketch: "Expect mix-ups, misunderstandings, and classic slapstick humour in this unmissable Comic Relief Amandaland special." Phillippa said that she jumped at the chance to create a sketch for Comic Relief, adding: "It's a great honour."

Amanda Holden said she was thrilled to be getting a part, telling us. "I am a massive fan of Amandaland. We watch it religiously in our house, so it's a little bit of an out-of-body experience for me."

Sara said: "I was playing the DJ, so it wasn't that much of a stretch, but it was just brilliant to work with actual Amanda from Amandaland, and so many iconic Amandas.

"We had Lamb, we had Holden, we had Barrie – who I grew up with, not literally – but on Coronation Street.

"So, it's been an incredible time pretending to be an actor and getting to work with amazing Lydia West."

Comic Relief: Funny for Money is on BBC1 on Friday from 7pm, and for the first time it will be live streamed on the BBC YouTube channel. There is a behind-the-scenes peek at the sketch on The One Show on Thursday.

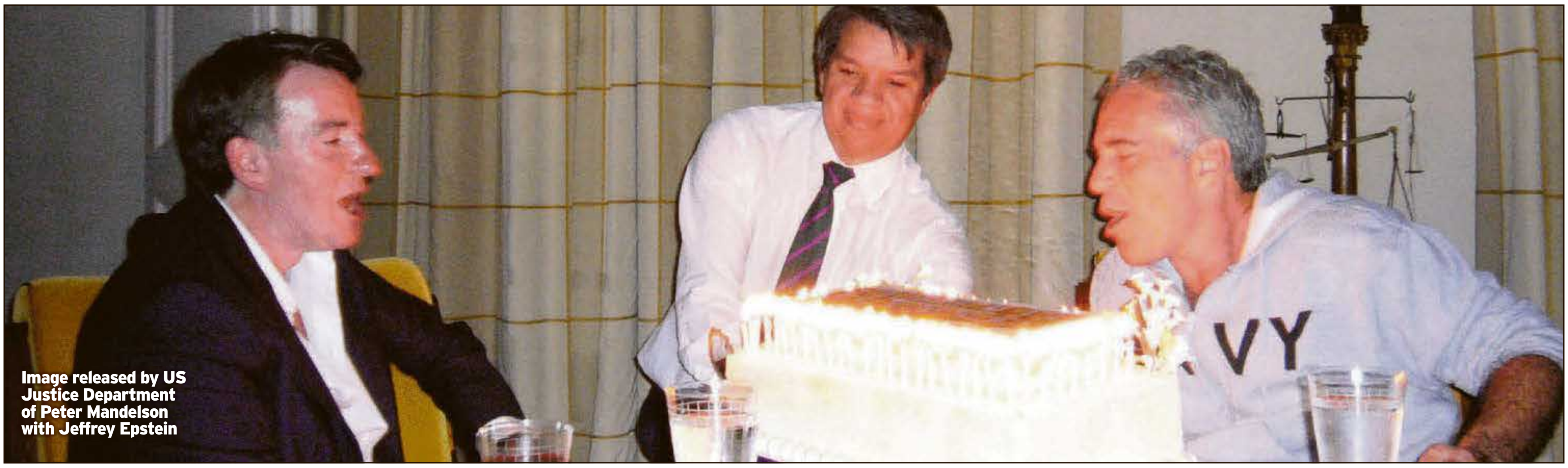

Image released by US Justice Department of Peter Mandelson with Jeffrey Epstein

‘Cops should investigate Mandelson drug emails’

BY **ANDY LINES**

PETER Mandelson should be probed by police over emails that suggest he was illegally supplied with drugs by paedophile Jeffrey Epstein, say critics.

Emails from the Epstein files appear to show the disgraced peer asked Epstein where he would get more “triangles” – slang for controlled sedative Xanax.

In another message Mandelson told the financier that the pills are “all very well but you need someone to use them on?” The emails were sent in December 2009 and June 2010 while Epstein was under house arrest after his conviction for soliciting sex from a 14-year-old girl.

There was a call last night for police to grill Mandelson on the exchange. Shadow Home Secretary Chris Philp said: “These revelations are jaw-dropping. If Mandelson was being provided with restricted drugs and Botox from Epstein, it shows the depths to which he had become dependent on this evil paedophile. The police should immediately investigate.”

It is illegal to possess Xanax in the US without a prescription and the NHS does not prescribe it due to high risk of addiction. The pills come in different shapes depending on their dosage, but the most potent are green and triangular.

Last night Mandelson’s lawyers did not deny that the “triangles” referred to Xanax.

Mandelson was sacked as US Ambassador in October after compromising messages and images of him emerged in the Epstein files.

He was arrested last month on suspicion of misconduct in public office, but has not been charged and denies any criminal wrongdoing.

Employment Rights Act ‘will stop watchdogs from probing unions’

EXCLUSIVE BY **AARON NEWBURY**

LABOUR has stripped regulators of the power to investigate union corruption, critics claim.

The Employment Rights Act stops officials proactively probing unions, imposing penalties or enforcing requirements on annual returns.

Watchdogs will no longer be able to look into complaints arising from third-party reports, instead requiring a union member to raise any issues.

Shadow Business and Trade Secretary Andrew Griffith said: “Labour’s unemployment act is a union charter riddled with measures that weaken or remove safeguards to protect ordinary union members. The only regulations this red-tape-loving government wants to cut are those on their union paymasters.”

Shadow skills minister Alan Mak said: “The government should be tightening the rules on union behaviour, not making them weaker.”

A government spokesman said: “The Certification Officer will still be able to investigate trade unions, including their financial affairs.”

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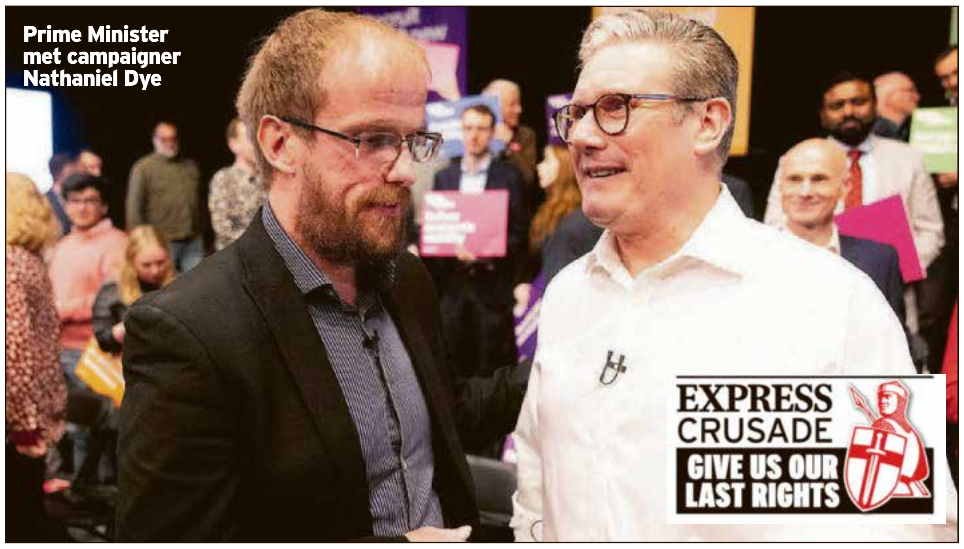
PRIME MINISTER URGED TO ACT

‘Assisted dying bill amendments feel like punishment for those simply asking for choice’

Sophie's petition demands more time for bill

100 Labour MPs slam peers as 100k sign campaigner's petition

BY **HANNA GEISSLER** Health Editor


EXPRESS CRUSADE
GIVE US OUR LAST RIGHTS

Prime Minister met campaigner Nathaniel Dye

SIR Keir Starmer faces intense pressure to save the assisted dying bill from a handful of peers using “procedural tactics” in the Lords to block it.

The longed-for law is expected to fall at the end of this parliament after hardline opponents tabled hundreds of amendments and spoke at length to run down the clock.

Sophie Blake, 52, who has incurable breast cancer, said: “Terminally ill adults deserve compassion, dignity and choice at the end of their lives.

“I welcome genuine scrutiny and strong safeguards, and palliative care must go hand in hand with assisted dying.

“But some of the amendments proposed feel less like scrutiny and more like punishment for those simply asking for choice.”

Dignity

Mum Sophie started a petition calling for the bill to be given more parliamentary time in memory of assisted dying campaigner Nathaniel Dye, who died from bowel cancer aged 40 in January. Almost 100,000 have signed it and reaching the milestone could trigger a Commons’ debate.

The Prime Minister has also received a letter from more than 100 Labour MPs denouncing the Lords’ filibustering.

Analysis by Dignity in Dying found just 1% of peers were responsible for around a third of debate speeches and have put their names to 70% of the amendments.

The Lords has considered around half of more than 1,200 amendments during 11 days of the bill’s committee stage, which is open to the whole House. It has been debated for more than 100 hours in the Lords and 110 hours in the Commons — significantly longer than most complex bills.

The letter to Sir Keir, organised by Peter Prinsley, a Labour MP and former NHS surgeon, said: “While we fully respect the government’s neutrality on the principle of assisted dying, we are confident that you would agree with us that we cannot be neutral on the fundamental democratic principle that it is for the elected House of Commons to decide on this matter.

“Our ask is simple. That, whether or not the bill returns through the private members’ bill ballot after the King’s Speech, time will be found for Parliament to come to a decision in the next session. It would remain a conscience issue for MPs, the government’s neutrality would be maintained, and it need not take up time reserved for government business.”

If the landmark legislation is backed by the Commons in a second session, it could become law without Lords’ consent.

Other letters from Tory, Lib Dem, Green, Plaid Cymru and Reform MPs bring the total calling for more time to around 150.

The PM is a long-term supporter of law change on assisted dying, while the government has remained neutral.

Backers of Labour MP Kim Leadbeater’s bill believe the growing anger of colleagues will be difficult for No10 to ignore.

Unelected

The number of Labour signatories is higher than the 42 who wrote to the PM last May protesting cuts to disability benefits. A major rebellion then saw 120 Labour MPs attempt to block the planned welfare reforms, forcing significant concessions.

The letter adds: “Our constituents strongly support a change in the law and it is clear to us that the issue must be resolved sooner rather than later.”

Dignity in Dying chief Sarah Wootton said: “While dying people are suffering, a tiny group of unelected peers are wasting their time by talking out a bill that already has the backing of the public, the parliament, and a growing number of professionals.

“The government may remain neutral on assisted dying, but it cannot remain neutral on democracy. The Prime Minister must ensure MPs are given time in the next session to make the final decision.”

GP blood test 90% accurate at spotting brain cancer

BY **JANE KIRBY**

SCIENTISTS have created a blood test that is more than 90% accurate at detecting and monitoring brain tumours.

They hope it could be used by GPs to pick up deadly glioblastomas earlier – and other cancers further down the line.

This would reduce the need for invasive surgical biopsies and simplify diagnosis.

The researchers, led by Manchester University, found two proteins in the blood that identify tumours with high accuracy and reveal how they respond to treatment.

Professor Petra Hamerlik said: “Glioblastoma is one of the most devastating cancers. The lack of reliable tests has been a barrier to earlier diagnosis and treatment response monitoring. What is remarkable about our findings is that, despite these tumours being very different in genetic make-up and constantly evolving, the signal in the blood is stable, robust and highly informative.

“This opens the door to a future where we can follow the tumour’s behaviour through a simple blood sample, complement brain scans, and potentially recognise when the treatment isn’t working and the cancer returns – all much earlier than is currently possible.”

Prof Hamerlik, whose father had glioblastoma, said patients often see a GP up to eight times before being sent for an MRI. She added: “The idea with our work is that, if you come more than once with a headache, such as three times, and if the doctor suspects a brain tumour, they would run this test.” The team, whose research was published in journal Neuro-Oncology Advances has launched a clinical trial at six sites in the UK and four abroad.

ANTIBIOTICS CAN ALTER YOUR GUT BACTERIA ‘FOR 8 YEARS’

ANTIBIOTICS can alter the contents of your gut for up to eight years, experts say.

Even a single course of certain types may affect the composition of bacteria in the stomach for several years, a study suggests.

It was already known that antibiotics have a short-term impact on the gut but for how long was unclear. Now scientists in Sweden have found “strong” links between a person’s history of antibiotic use and the composition of bacteria in their stomach.

Clindamycin, fluoroquinolones and flucloxacillin had the strongest associations, while penicillin V was linked to small and short-lasting changes.

DAILY EXPRESS

One Canada Square, London E14 5AP
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Close cruelty loophole to save kids like Tony

THE abuse suffered by little Tony Hudgell at the hands of his birth parents defies comprehension.

He was just 41 days old when Jody Simpson and Anthony Smith subjected him to such violence the baby suffered multiple fractures and dislocations, organ failure and sepsis.

He was left untreated and in agony for 10 days with injuries so horrific he had both legs amputated. Inspirational Tony – who has raised millions of pounds for charity – now lives in the sanctuary of his adoptive parents Paula and Mark's home and is loved beyond compare.

And it is through their dogged determination the government is commendably taking action to stop the evil of child abuse.

Paula saved one child's life and has now made it her mission to do the same for others.

So when she warns that plans to create a national child abuse register do not go far enough ministers should be alarmed and they should listen. Under current proposals a glaring loophole could see those who are known to the victim – and convicted of grievous or actual bodily harm – fail to appear on a database to keep track of abusers.

A legislative omission could see the other parent convicted of causing or allowing child cruelty and be put on the register.

Tony will live with the wounds inflicted by two people who were meant to love and protect him for the rest of his life.

That ministers have agreed to introduce a Child Cruelty Register is a move we warmly welcome, but they must make sure every loophole that could be exploited by these monsters is closed before they do.

Medals' pride of place

IT will bemuse some, and anger far more, that the Imperial War Museum ever decided to airbrush the valour of Britain's war heroes.

Last year it closed The Lord Ashcroft Gallery housing the world's largest collection of gallantry gongs. One of the reasons for bringing the shutters down on the display of Victoria and George Crosses was too few people are alive who remember the Second World War.

That was always a strange explanation, especially for a museum founded in 1917 to record the civil and military war effort and sacrifice of the United Kingdom and its Empire.

Thank goodness then that Lord Ashcroft, the philanthropist, patriot and lifelong friend of our armed forces, has found a new home for his glittering medal haul.

And we urge people to visit when it is exhibited at London's National Army Museum, which has no embarrassment or shame in celebrating these priceless military decorations and the bravery of those honoured.

Prince's touching tribute

YESTERDAY, mothers everywhere received the deserved recognition they don't always get. The Prince of Wales was among those paying tribute on Mother's Day and shared an unseen photo of his beloved late mother.

Diana, who died aged 36 after a 1997 car crash, would have turned 65 on July 1 this year.

The pictorial tribute showing Diana with a two-year-old William in 1984 proves a mother's influence is eternal.

UK motorists have been used as cash cows for too long

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Spiralling fuel costs at the pump are hurting drivers

Duncan Barkes
Guest columnist

CAMPAIGNS to scrap the 5p per litre rise in fuel duty in September are to be welcomed as motorists remain a constant cash cow for both government and local councils everywhere.

The Conservatives and Reform UK are right to pressure Labour to axe the increase against a backdrop of spiralling fuel costs at the pump due to the war with Iran.

At Prime Minister's Questions last Wednesday, Sir Keir Starmer would only say the fuel duty hike was being kept under review despite Tory leader Kemi Badenoch's probing.

Should we be surprised? Not at all, because for far too long our political elites have seen the motorist as an easy target when it comes to grabbing cash.

Take the price at the pump: frankly eyewatering tax on fuel (including fuel duty and VAT) accounts for 57% of the price of a litre of petrol and 54% of the price of a litre of diesel.

Despite the Tories overseeing 15 years of fuel duty freezes while they were in government, Britain still has the fourth highest duty on diesel and the 10th highest duty on petrol when compared with EU member states. We continue to be financially battered just for wanting to drive a car.

Politicians like to suggest that people travel by car by choice rather than necessity, but this is now completely out of touch with reality.

TAKE the trains – we live in a country where despite forking out a decent chunk of cash to travel during peak times, your service can be cancelled at the last moment or delayed. Even if it does turn up on time, you are not guaranteed a seat or a working loo onboard. How can this ever be acceptable?

When you turn up at a railway station or look at a rail company website and are told they cannot guarantee you will reach your destination, is it no wonder we might want to reach for our car keys?

Then there are bus services. Forget it if you live in a rural area where services seem sporadic or stop running by 6pm.

If you live in a big town or city, you might have better luck, but would you feel safe travelling alone at night on a bus? Not me.

Only last week the London Youth Assembly called on Transport for London and the London Ambulance Service to launch a pilot scheme that would see bus stations and "high risk" bus routes feature "bleed kits" to help victims of stabbing. We now live in a country with "high risk" bus routes – just let that sink in.

Public transport is not always a choice, which is why people decide to use their cars – and that is when they are hit by all kinds of charges.

Yet London mayor Sir Sadiq Khan's ULEZ charging zone continues to cast a shadow over the capital, with drivers of older vehicles that they cannot afford to replace being unfairly targeted. Labour-run Cardiff council is planning to introduce a system of parking permits which will hit heavier vehicles such as family cars and vans.

They aim to divide the city into four sections: city and civic centre, inner parking area, bay parking area and outer parking area. No parking permits will be available in the city centre for any vehicles, which will force motorists to use private parking or car parks.

Elsewhere in the city, vehicles weighing more than 2,400kg will have to pay more.

This will then capture electric vehicles (EVs) which are heavier due to their batteries.

PERVERSELY, the Welsh government has been encouraging residents to buy EVs over the years. Cardiff is the first place to bring in such a policy – and you can bet it will not be the last as councils squeeze more cash out of local motorists.

Elliot Keck, campaigns director of the TaxPayers' Alliance, said: "There should be little doubt that this is simply the beginning of the next war on British motorists. What begins in Cardiff will likely spread across the rest of the UK, as greedy, car-hating councils view families and tradesmen as cash cows to draw upon."

Aside from punishing motorists with increased charges, councils are also guilty of making driving harder locally – from introducing 20mph speed limits, to endless cycle lanes that hog road space and ludicrous "Dutch-style" roundabouts that prioritise cyclists and pedestrians over vehicles – and always at great expense to the local taxpayers.

Motorists in the UK have been used as cash cows for far too long – by central and local government.

It's time to cut us some slack and stop punishing us for deciding to drive a car.

'It's time to stop punishing us for deciding to drive a car'

JJ Anisiobi

THIS IS HOW I SEE IT

More camouflage... and less concealer

WHILE America is busy defending the world from Iranian terror, the British Army is tying itself in knots over whether male soldiers should be allowed to wear cosmetics.

Forgive my pun but, honestly, you couldn't make it up! Serving troops have reportedly been sent a consultation about introducing gender-neutral grooming standards and dress codes.

In other words, somewhere in Whitehall someone thinks the pressing question facing Britain's armed forces is whether Private Smith should be allowed a touch of blusher.

Now look, people can live however they like in civilian life. Fill your boots. But the Army isn't a lifestyle brand – it's a war-fighting machine whose job is to close with, and kill, the enemy. When you're facing someone who wants to kill you, the priority shouldn't be checking your eyeliner.

Personally, I like my soldiers looking broadly the same: sharp uniforms, crew cuts and the only face paint in sight being camouflage.

I pray our enemies worry more about our firepower rather than our foundation.

DAILY EXPRESSO

LAST week on the Daily Expresso we did something much of the modern media seems strangely allergic to – we spoke to an ordinary working member of the public. Not a career MP. Not one of the same political commentators who rotate endlessly around the TV studios.

Just one of those working people Starmer says he's fighting for. Martin Gauci joined us to talk about the state of Britain.

He spoke honestly about his concerns and, crucially, listened to mine. That's what proper grassroots politics should look like – two people with different views finding the overlap where common sense lives.

You don't have to agree on everything to have a constructive conversation. If more politicians spent less time talking at people and more time listening to them, the public might trust them again.

Changing the debate on single-sex spaces

FOR years, raising concerns about single-sex spaces has been treated as though you've just confessed to kicking puppies for fun. Question the prevailing orthodoxy and the response is instant condemnation. "Bigot" gets thrown around faster than confetti at a wedding. But here's the awkward thing, when you actually ask the public what they think, the answer is rather different from the one activists have been shouting about.

A UK-wide poll by SexMatters.org shows that the vast majority of adults prefer single-sex provision of public toilets and changing rooms. And it's not even close. Around 78% favour single-sex toilets in workplaces. That rises to 81% in places such as parks and pubs.

When it comes to showers and changing rooms at work, support for single-sex facilities climbs to a whopping 86%. This isn't some niche opinion held by a handful of crusty old traditionalists, either. The view cuts right across the political spectrum. Labour voters. Conservatives. Even younger voters – supposedly the most progressive generation in history – shrug: of course sex-based spaces should stay sex-based. Women, perhaps unsurprisingly, feel particularly strongly about it. Funny that.

Now let's be clear – most people are not arguing transgender people shouldn't be treated with dignity. That's a straw man argument activists love to wheel out because it saves them from having to engage in good faith. The real point is much simpler. The vast majority of the public believe single-sex spaces exist for a reason. Privacy. Safety. Common sense.

Yet for years, politicians, campaigners and corporate HR departments have insisted on behaving as if the opposite is true. And questioning that is the moral equivalent of heresy.

Well, the public seems to have missed that memo. The national conversation has been dominated by a very small group of activists who shout extremely loudly and are treated as though they speak for everyone. They don't.

Most people are capable of holding two thoughts in their head at the same time: treating individuals with respect while also believing certain spaces should be separated by sex. But try saying that out loud in polite society!

It's time the avocado-on-toast-eating elite started accepting that most people know the difference between men and women.

Five Pounds

Why my money's on the badgers

EVERY few months it seems Britain finds a brand new thing to argue about. This week it's the faces on bank notes.

The Bank of England is considering dropping historical figures after a consultation suggested we might prefer themes like nature or architecture instead. Cue predictable outrage.

Currently notes feature the likes of Winston Churchill, Jane Austen and Alan Turing. All towering figures in their fields. But the consultation found "nature" was the most popular theme, beating both "architecture and landmarks" and "notable historical figures". For some people this signals the end of civilisation as we know it. But let's keep a little perspective.

The idea famous Brits must appear on our money isn't an ancient tradition. It only began in 1970 when William Shakespeare was added to a banknote. Before that, British notes got along perfectly well without a rotating cast of historical celebrities staring at us from our wallets.

The only face that really needs to be on British money is the Monarch's. Everyone else inevitably becomes a matter of taste, and that's where the trouble lies. One person's hero is another's historical villain.

So perhaps pictures of wildlife quietly minding their own business isn't such a bad idea. At least the badgers won't start an argument.

IRAN'S BRAVE FOOTBALLERS IN A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN

THE Iranian female footballers seeking asylum are exactly the kind of people the system was designed to protect. These women are real refugees and, frankly, real heroes.

It's likely they will face punishment for refusing to sing the Iranian national anthem – a small act of defiance that carries enormous risk under a regime that treats female independence as a crime. We instinctively sympathise with them because we know what the Iranian authorities do to women who step out of line. Which is why Western feminists should pay attention. This is what feminism looks like – brave women standing up to tyranny. If you believe in women's rights, you should champion these women.

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DEFENDING THE NATION

SOMETHING feels off within the Ministry of Defence, *writes Conor Wilson.* The state of the armed forces has been laid bare by (at best) haphazard planning in the lead up to US military strikes on Iran and in the response. I was invited down to Northwood HQ, the British military's primary headquarters responsible for planning and conducting global operations, last week and I left struck by two things.

First, just how well drilled and slick British military strategic planning is. Not at the political level, but at the operational level, where highly skilled soldiers and officers work round the clock to keep British forces protected and able to have an outsized effect on the enemy and the area of operations.

Criticism at those who give the orders should not overshadow the fantastic work being done in a conflict which at the time of writing, has seen no British casualties.

Secondly, I was struck by the inability of ministers and those at the very top to give adequate explanations as to why decisions, that can seem frankly baffling, were taken.

Criticism of the failure to deploy HMS Dragon is well documented but once more, Defence Secretary John Healey was unable to give a reasonable answer, instead, bragging at how quickly the decision to deploy the frigate was taken… 24 hours AFTER a drone hit an RAF base in Cyprus.

> **'Defence Secretary John Healey was unable to give a reasonable answer'**

His flatout failure to give even a brief outline of the rationale behind the decision to remove the only mine clearing capability in Bahrain just days before Donald Trump launched his strikes also speaks to a prickliness over criticism of the preparedness for a war the US president warned was possible in January.

Reports suggest that the Chief of the Defence Staff has lost the confidence of No10, showing the vulnerability of Sir Richard Knighton just months into his tenure.

The failure to deploy assets to the Middle East in preparation of a US attack, the time taken to prepare HMS Dragon in the wake of a drone strike on RAF Akrotiri and the ongoing delays to the Defence Investment Plan have all shone an unwelcome spotlight on Sir Richard.

Healey was unequivocal in his support for the head of the armed forces but it is fair to say his performance thus far has not portrayed him in a good light.

If indeed, Downing Street is briefing against him, something I can't admit to being privy to, then he looks unlikely to fulfil his four-year posting in the role.

Theroux explored manosphere

LOUIS Theroux's journey into the manosphere is currently proving popular on Netflix as the documentary maker explores the views of men that would not look out of date in Afghanistan.

As a father of boys, it's a terrifying glimpse into the lives of the vultures who fill the void of young men lacking role models while enriching themselves.

Last year, the government accepted a recommendation to invest in the cadet force to boost connection with (and potentially recruitment into) the military. After visiting cadets, I was struck not only by the possibilities of showcasing a life in the military but of the leadership skills and positive role models on offer.

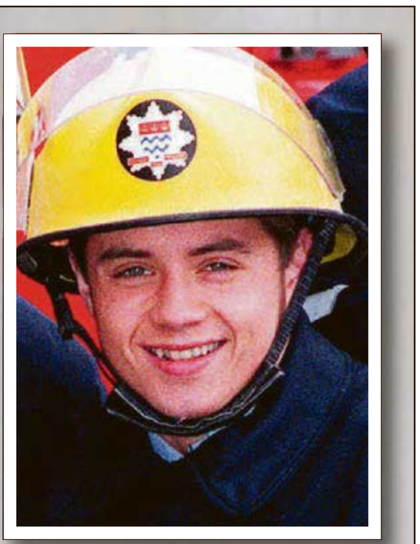
Funding has yet to arrive but watching Theroux left me wondering whether the cadets could have benefit beyond providing a glimpse into the military.

EXPRESS EXTRA
Scan here for our Defending The Nation newsletter, or visit express.co.uk/defendingthenation

THE announcement of a £1billion contract to provide the armed forces with a new medium-lift helicopter sounds great on paper – but the truth is scarier. Leonardo will deliver 23 AW149 models – well short of the 44 originally envisioned – for the same £1billion price. Worse still, with an in-service date of 2031 (and we know the military's track record on deadlines), Joint Aviation Command will have no medium-lift capability for almost six years – leaving it reliant on heavier, older airframes to cover the capability gaps. Nobody expects Rome nor helicopters to be built in a day, but a six-year capability gap is yet another illustration of the current inability to deter and respond to threats of militaries many times bigger.

By Conor Wilson and James Knuckey

Shamed star Alford dies in prison


As Billy Ray in London's Burning

Alford outside court and, inset, he is seen on the right as Robbie in Grange Hill

BY **JAN DISLEY**

DISGRACED actor John Alford has died in prison just weeks after being jailed for sexually abusing two girls.

The former London's Burning and Grange Hill star, real name John Shannon, was found lifeless in his cell at HMP Bure, Norfolk.

Alford, 54, was sentenced to eight and a half years after being convicted of sexually assaulting two teenage girls, aged 14 and 15.

A Prison Service spokesman confirmed that he died on Friday and said: "As with all deaths in custody, the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman will investigate."

There were no further details of the circumstances surrounding his death.

Glasgow-born Alford embarked on his acting career in childhood, appearing on Grange Hill where he played rebelloius teen Robbie Wright.

But he became best known for his role as firefighter Billy Ray after joining the cast of ITV drama London's Burning in 1993.

In 1996 he also launched a pop career and his first single Smoke Gets in Your Eyes reached number 13 in the UK chart. A follow-up double A-side single of Blue Moon and Only You made number 9.

But in 1997, Alford was sacked from London's Burning and jailed for nine months after being convicted of supplying cocaine and cannabis following a sting by undercover News of the World journalist Mazher Mahmood, the "Fake Sheikh".

After his release, he took smaller roles in Casualty, 2017 film The Hatton Garden Job, and Sky drama Mile High.

However, in September 2018, police tried to arrest Alford after he was found apparently under the influence, "shouting about corrupt police and Rupert Murdoch" while sitting in a Camden council bin lorry.

In 2019, he admitted resisting an officer and was given a 12-month community order.

His ultimate fall from grace came when he was found guilty of sexual assault last year.

Alford struck at a house party after a pub night out in Hertfordshire in April 2022, his trial at St Albans crown court was told.

As a trusted family friend he had been left alone with the girls when the other adults went to bed.

Having bought vodka for the teens, he forced himself on the 14-year-old and inappropriately touched the 15-year-old as she lay half-asleep.

Alford had denied the crimes but was found guilty by jurors. On hearing the verdict he held his head in his hands and said: "I didn't do this."

Orbit's Grammys 'bust by DHL'

BY **CHARLIE WATTON**

MUSIC producer William Orbit has issued a sarcastic thank you to a delivery firm after his Grammy awards were "broken" in transit.

Orbit, 69, who received one of the gongs for his work on Madonna's album Ray of Light, said: "Thanks DHL, for returning my three Grammys to London from Venice. But it seems now instead of three, I possess nine broken bits of Grammys. Which is a 'humblebrag' if ever I heard one.

"So I'll throw in that my seven nomination medallions survived the trip."

The English musician, real name William Wainwright, said the awards, inset, seemed "pretty repairable".

He added: "Thing about Grammys, and despite that I'm told they maybe don't have the same impact as a decade or two back, I wouldn't say no to another.

"More because the after-parties [are] more engaging when you are clutching one."

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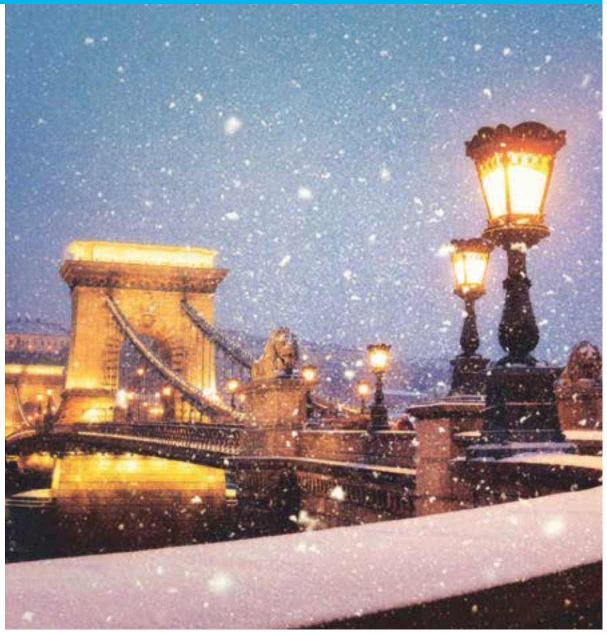

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Battle to block 124-mile CO2 pipeline by 'Mad Ed' through National Park

EXCLUSIVE

BY **RICHARD ASHMORE**

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NO TO CO PROJEC
SAVE WIRRAL FROM PEAK CLUSTER
STOP THE CO2 PIPELINE & AGIs
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DEFEND YOUR HOME

Protest at Leasowe lighthouse, Wirral, against project by Ed Miliband, inset

LIVID campaigners are trying to stop "Mad Ed" Miliband gouging out ancient woodland and a National Park for a 124-mile net zero pipeline.

The £28.6million Peak Cluster project would capture CO2 produced by the cement industry in Derbyshire and Staffordshire and pump it into a huge disused gas well in the Irish Sea.

But opponents say it will decimate the Peak District and damage ancient woodland in the Wirral – and could be replaced by carbon capture technology at the plants themselves.

Peak Cluster is just one of Net Zero Secretary Mr Miliband's similar schemes across the UK – carrying a £22billion price tag over 25 years.

The government claims the Carbon Capture, Usage and Storage (CCUS) project is vital for hitting zero CO2 emissions targets and will create and safeguard thousands of jobs.

But MPs on the Commons' public accounts committee warned last year that the cost would "come from levies on consumers who are already facing some of the highest energy bills in the world".

And Tory chair Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown said Labour was "gambling on carbon capture technology becoming foundational to achieving net zero".

Campaigners also claim by the time Peak Cluster is operational – due to be 2032 – much of the industry it supports will have shut down.

Hundreds of protesters attended meetings earlier this month, resulting in Merseyside and Wirral councillors unanimously deciding to pressure the government and MPs to ditch the plan.

Laura Beveridge-Muircroft, from the Wirral, part of Action Against Carbon Capture and Storage, said "We're not saying we don't need carbon capture, we're not climate deniers. We are simply a bunch of residents saying that there are better ways.

"People have been very arrogant in their response to us, and I feel like they think they've got carte blanche because it is a government initiative.

"There is a technology that is available – and it's being used in France, Germany, Norway, Australia and America – where they capture the carbon at source, process it, then use that processed carbon dioxide to continually power the plant."

SAY NO TO PEAK CLUSTER
NO CO2 PIPE

Opponents outside Wallasey Town Hall

Blight

Environmental campaigner Stuart Cox, known as the Peak District Viking on social media, said: "During construction of the pipeline there's going to be a 30-40 metre trench and they're going to have pumping stations the size of several football pitches. It's a protected landscape, should they really be building this mass swathe through it? Some of these ancient woodlands and peat bogs will never recover. Mad Ed's net zero challenge is going to blight the landscape and bankrupt us."

He said other nations ship CO2 by rail or road.

Peak Cluster's pipeline is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project and Mr Miliband has the final say.

Dave Parkin, chair of Peak Cluster, apologised for the way public engagement has been handled. He added: "This is a challenge we face as a modern, civilised society: how do you balance the national need to do things against local opposition?"

Mr Miliband's department said: "All carbon capture projects must meet strict environmental and regulatory requirements, including high levels of protection for communities and the environment."

Abdulraziq, 32, 'poses risk'

11 years for migrant who snatched girl from street

BY **ROSS MCCARTHY**

A SUDANESE national who abducted a young girl and sexually abused her at his home has been jailed for 11 years.

Mohammed Abdulraziq, 32, was found guilty of false imprisonment, sexual assault and assault.

His five-year-old victim was playing in the street in Winson Green, Birmingham, on March 30 last year while her mum talked to a friend who lived there.

When the girl vanished, the women launched a frantic search and eventually heard her crying in the downstairs room of a nearby house.

The friend smashed a window and saw Abdulraziq – who had been drinking beer and smoking synthetic cannabis – and the girl partially undressed.

She was rescued by two men who broke in.

Birmingham crown court Judge Kerry Maylin said Abdulraziq posed a serious risk of harm to children.

He had previously admitted assault, attempted assault and criminal damage over a separate incident.

Horror over lamb killings

BY **GRÁINNE NÍ AODHA**

A FLOCK of 13 lambs have been found dead with their necks deliberately broken.

Police are appealing for information over the killings at a farm in Rostrevor, Co Down.

Officers believe the animals were attacked between 7pm on Friday and 7.45am on Saturday.

A spokesman for the Police Service of Northern Ireland said: "It appears that their necks had been deliberately broken.

"This is a shocking crime, and we would be keen to hear from anyone who noticed anything unusual in the area during the times above. Enquiries are ongoing."

Not so difficult to see camouflaged nightjars as numbers double

BY **BEN MITCHELL**

THE elusive nightjar bird, nicknamed the goatsucker, has made a comeback following conservation efforts.

Numbers of the camouflaged bird, known for its "churring" song at sunset, is estimated to have doubled in five years, with 78 recorded in the South Downs National Park last year.

An ecological survey also found 109 nightjar territories – the highest number recorded – in the Special Protection Area in the lowland heaths of east Hampshire, which includes Woolmer Forest and the commons of Shortheath, Bramshott, Ludshott, Broxhead and Kingsley.

A spokesman for the South Downs National Park authority said: "They are one of Britain's most elusive birds, known for 'churring' when darkness falls and a supernatural reputation thanks to their mythical ability to steal milk from goats.

"Now the nightjar is making a remarkable comeback in the park, thanks to nature recovery efforts and better habitat management."

The spokesman said the rise in numbers followed work focused on protecting and increasing lowland heath, which provides the habitat for the nightjar's ground-nesting sites.

The nightjar is listed as an amber species under the Red List for Birds, meaning it is a species of "conservation concern" with their numbers falling by 51% between 1972 and 1992 following loss of woodland and heathland to agriculture and development.

Nightjars migrate 4,000 miles from the Democratic Republic of Congo each spring and remain from April to August.

Nightjars are back in the South Downs after heathland increase

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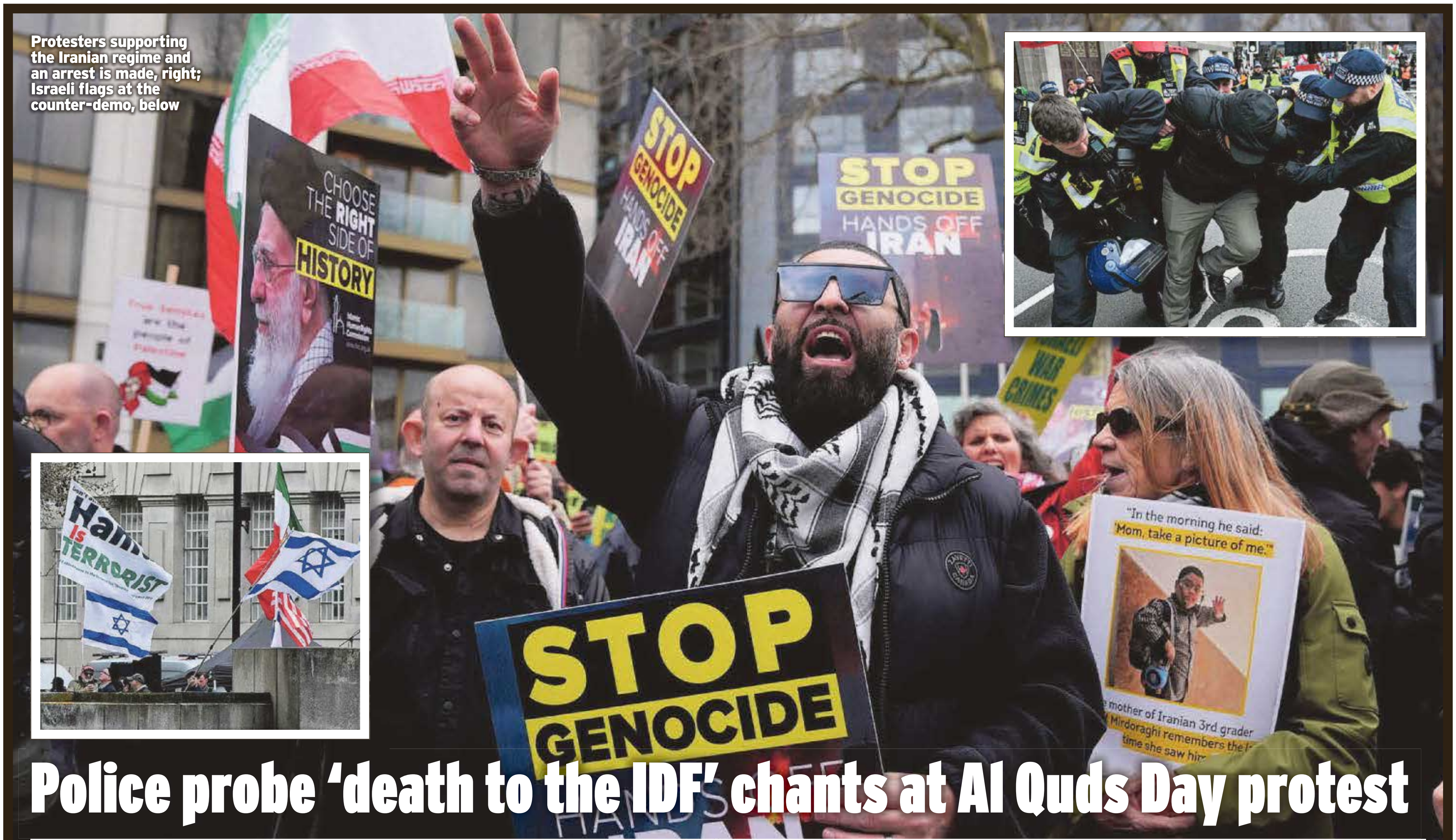

CHOOSE THE RIGHT SIDE OF HISTORY
STOP GENOCIDE HANDS OFF IRAN
STOP GENOCIDE
Hamas Is TERRORIST
WAR CRIMES
"In the morning he said: 'Mom, take a picture of me.'"

Protesters supporting the Iranian regime and an arrest is made, right; Israeli flags at the counter-demo, below

Police probe 'death to the IDF' chants at Al Quds Day protest

BY **MATTHEW DOOLEY**

PRO-Iranian protesters and counter-demonstrators brought Central London to a standstill as police used the Thames as a barrier to keep them apart.

At least 12 arrests were made for showing support for a proscribed organisation, affray, dangerous driving and threatening or abusive behaviour, said the Met.

More than 1,000 officers had been drafted into the capital for the Al Quds Day demo organised by the Islamic Human Rights Commission.

Its usual annual march - a pro-Palestinian protest - was banned by Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood after the group expressed support for Iran's late leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

It was the first time such a restriction had been imposed since 2012. Instead, a so-called "static protest" was held, where crowds chanted "death to the IDF" (Israel Defence Forces) following a speech by Bob Vylan. The rap duo notoriously issued the same cry at Glastonbury Festival last year.

In a post on X last night, the Met said: "We are aware of chanting made by a speaker at the Al Quds protest and will be investigating.

"We recognise the concern footage and chanting like this causes, particularly with London's Jewish communities."

Demonstrators also chanted "from the river to the sea" and held pictures of Khamenei, accompanied with the message: "Choose the right side of history."

At the counter-protest organised jointly by Stop The Hate and The Lion Guard of Iran, the Israeli flag was waved along with one proclaiming: "Hamas is terrorist."

The Met Police earlier posted: "Protesters have assembled on both sides of the river.

"The Al Quds Day protest on the Albert Embankment (to the South) and the counter-protest in Millbank. Lambeth Bridge remains closed to keep both groups apart."

Police vans were parked along the bridge and roads, while a police boat was seen on the Thames.

A fifth of students would not share a house with a Jew

BY **RICHARD ASHMORE**

ONE in five students would not be willing to share a house with a Jewish person, an alarming report has found.

Nearly half of students have seen examples of terror groups Hamas and Hezbollah being "glorified on campus".

Half of students said they felt socially pressured to hold certain views on Israel and Palestine, according to the Time for Change report from the Union of Jewish Students.

Some 47% said they had seen the October 7 terror attacks on Israel as being "justified".

The situation is even worse at elite institutions, the report found.

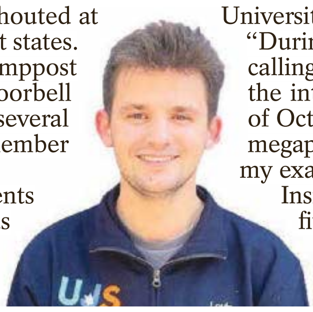
At Russell Group universities – which include Cambridge and Oxford – more than half of students feel unsafe to engage in political debates, and nearly four in five describe the campus conversation around Israel-Palestine as intimidating or toxic.

While 26% of students encounter protests at least weekly, this rises to 42% at Russell Group universities, according to the poll of 1,000 students conducted by JL Partners.

Two Jewish students were followed home after having "Free Palestine" shouted at them in Birmingham, the report states.

Their pursuers climbed the lamppost outside their house, rang the doorbell several times and lingered for several nights, telling passers-by: "Remember this address as Jews live here."

Around two in three students told the survey that campus protests related to Palestine were disruptive for their learning, while a third said they feel unsafe engaging in political debates.



Louis Danker president of UJS

A second-year student at Queen Mary, University of London, told the report: "During my biology exam, chants calling for the fall of Israel, to globalise the intifada and praising the terrorists of October 7 were screamed through a megaphone right under the window of my exam room."

Inside the report, images show graffiti declaring "IDF off campus" – a reference to Israel Defence Forces – and "Free Palestine" being daubed on Hillel House, a Jewish student centre close to the University of Leeds.

The study, supported by Baroness Luciana Berger and Lord Daniel Finkelstein, calls for immediate action from government, regulators, police and university leaders to restore Jewish students' confidence and ensure they can participate fully in education.

Racism

Louis Danker, president of the Union of Jewish Students, said: "This report demonstrates that antisemitism on campus is not isolated, but normalised. No Jewish student should have to face social ostracisation, abusive language or physical violence – there is a right to protest, but not to harass."

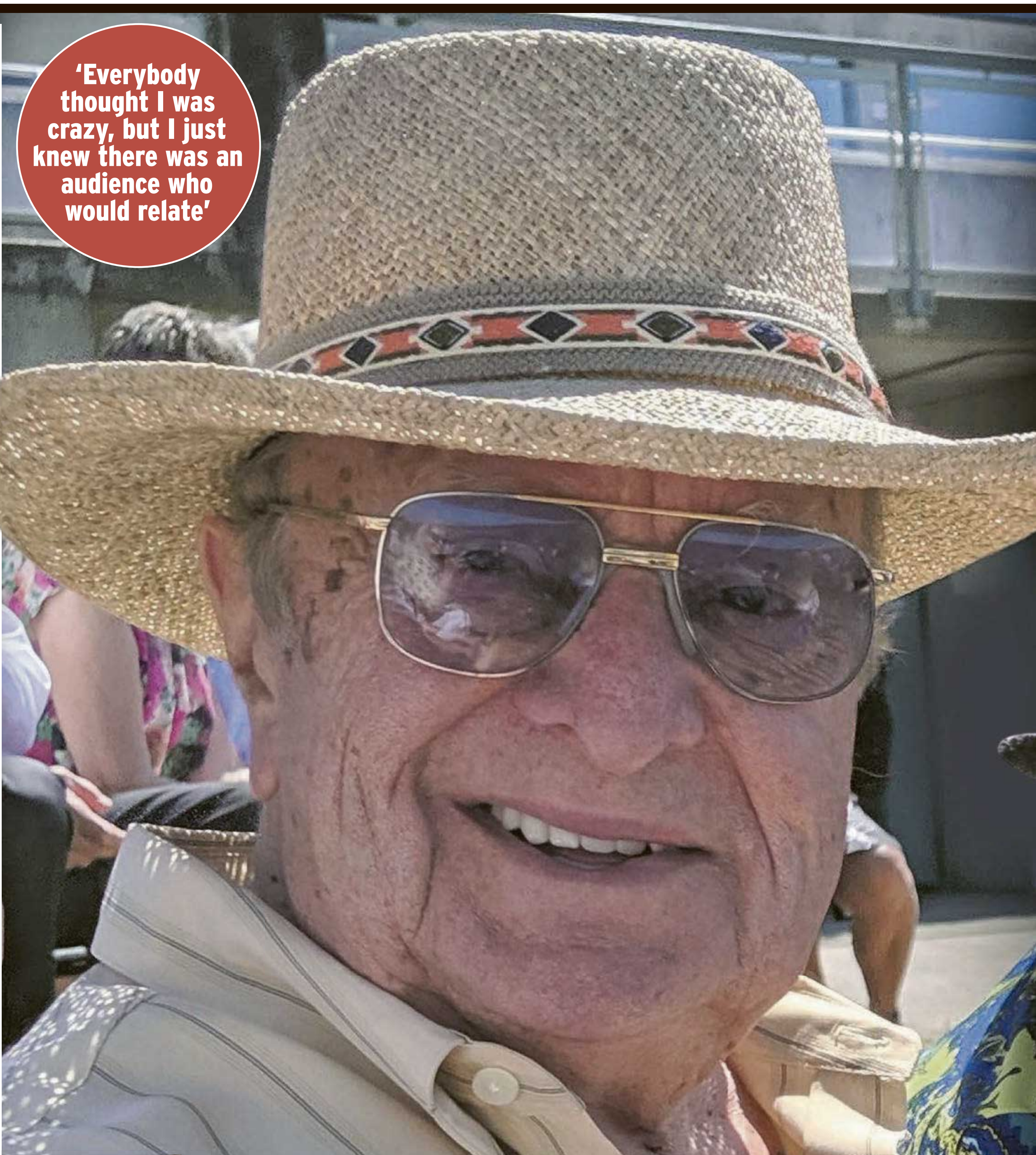
In a foreword to the report Baroness Berger wrote: "Jewish students continue to be attacked at the hands of the same people.

"The persistent lack of awareness, understanding and refusal to learn the lessons of the past are what make this report so vital."

Vivienne Stern, of Universities UK, said: "No Jewish student, or Jewish member of staff, should be subjected to racism, harassment or abuse on our campuses.

"Jewish students and staff should feel welcome and supported, and should know that their university will take action when they are subjected to antisemitism."

NINETIES



‘Everybody thought I was crazy, but I just knew there was an audience who would relate’

IT WAS the start of the long, hot summer of 1976. James Callaghan was our Prime Minister, 2nd Division Southampton had won the FA Cup and England’s cricketers were facing the fearsome fast bowlers of the West Indies. While at the top of the pop charts was one of the unusual number ones ever.

No Charge, sung by the Canadian artist JJ Barrie, told of how a little boy billed his mother for doing household chores. When his Mom reminded him of all the things she had done for him, for free, since he was born, he was full of contrition. Moral of story: the real cost of love is no charge.

It’s fair to say the song, which was actually a profound critique of putting a price tag on everything – divided opinion. Hip music critics hated it, (there was even a parody version by Billy Connolly), but the public clearly loved it with their purchases of the single propelling it to number one.

Fifty years on JJ Barrie (real name Barry Authors), is still professionally active – and, in his 93rd year, is now the oldest surviving male number one artist. “I can remember it like it was last week,” he says of the time he made it to the top. “It’s amazing. I can remember sitting in the office of Chappell Music [my record company] and Roland Remy coming in and saying, ‘You’re number one!’ It’s a very strange thing.

“I was singing some good middle-of-the road music – No Charge was so square that when I heard it, I just knew it was going to be a hit record. Every feeling I had inside me. Everybody thought I was crazy, but I just knew there was an audience out there who would really relate to what I was talking about.”

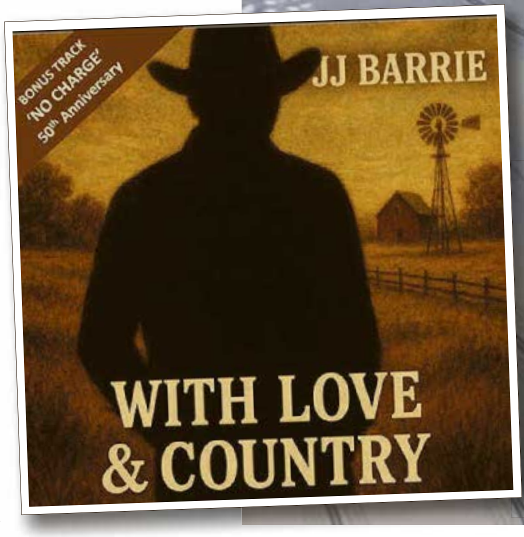
Yet in some ways the success he enjoyed with No Charge was a double-edged sword for Barrie who never had another top 20 hit. “The results of having such a success with No Charge went against me because it hurt all my other music,” he explains. “A lot of people – the so-called elite press – were very sarcastic about the kind of record it was. But I didn’t write it, it was Harland Howard’s song. It was just one of those freak things that happened.”

For Anglophile Barrie having a number one in Britain was very special. He first came to the UK in 1952 – just in time for the Queen’s Coronation – and 70 years later he also saw her funeral.

In the 1950s he performed as one half of a “crazy” comedy act called Authors and Swinson. “We played in all the great theatres in England, including five times at the London Palladium,” he remembers.

Later Barrie became a manager of the comedian Norman Wisdom – who he took to Canada to do a tour – and the pop group Blue Mink.

Then in June 1976 he had his great moment. Championed by DJ Tony Blackburn, No Charge made it to number one – knocking Abba’s Fernando off the top spot.



BARRIE made four appearances on Top of the Pops (two of which have recently been repeated on BBC4) including the Christmas edition that year. Although he could never match that success chart-wise, he did release many other singles (including one with the legendary football manager Brian Clough called You Can’t Win Them All) and well-regarded albums.

And the good news for his fans is that he is still working as his 93rd birthday approaches in July. “I have put this album together with material that has never really been released which I think will appeal to a lot of middle-of-the-road people,” he says. “It’s called With Love and Country and it’s got some good songs on it. No Charge is on the album to mark its 50th anniversary. I’m looking for a record company to release it.”

When it comes to music Barrie believes that the 1970s was a real golden age when there was something for everyone and that some of that variety has been lost today. But at least we still have old editions of Top of the Pops and You Tube, to remind us of those days. So, take it away JJ! And perhaps 50 years after his last number one, the oldest surviving chart-topping male artist can have a big hit once again.

Wouldn’t that be something?

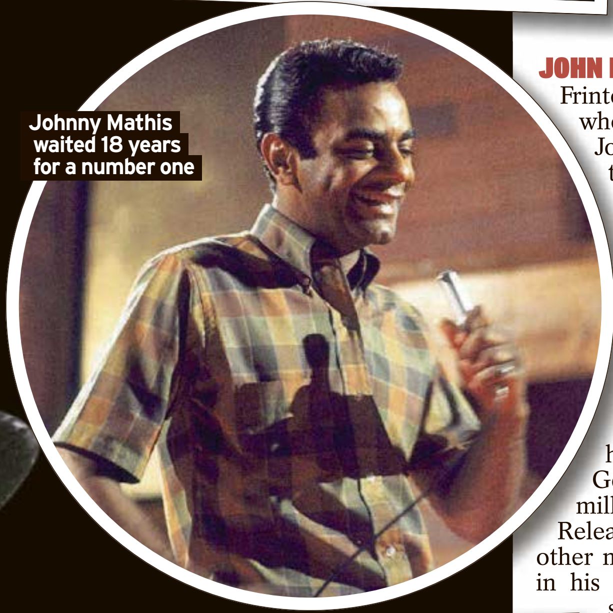
THE ROARING NINETIES: OTHER NUMBER ONE GOLDEN OLDIES

PETULA CLARK (94 IN NOVEMBER)

The British chanteuse is now believed to be the oldest surviving female number one artist following the death last year of the American singer Jane Morgan (who got to number one in 1959 with The Day the Rains Came) aged 101. Petula’s incredible 87-year career as a professional entertainer

As a host of former chart-toppers become nonagenarians, NEIL CLARK talks to JJ Barrie, the oldest living male number one artist who is about to release new music after five decades

Petula plays the Royal Albert Hall in 1974


Johnny Mathis waited 18 years for a number one

JJ Barrie, left, today and in his heyday, inset

Tommy in 1957, the year of his first chart topper

POP STARS

began in 1942 as a child performer on BBC Radio. She made her film debut two years later and was a star of the original VE Day celebrations.

As a singer she has sold between 60-100 million records worldwide and has had two UK number ones, Sailor, in 1961 and This is My Song (composed by Charlie Chaplin) in 1967. As she approaches her mid-90s Clark is still going strong and last year published her autobiography entitled Is that You, Petula?

In 2019 she returned to the West End at the age of 86, playing the Bird Lady in Mary Poppins and resumed the role after the Covid lockdowns earning excellent reviews. When asked what was the secret of her joie de vivre, she replied: "I love what I do. I think I am privileged to be doing all these years what I love."

PAT BOONE (92 IN JUNE)

Clean-cut American vocalist and actor. Boone was a major rival to Elvis in the teen idol stakes in the late 1950s and early 1960s and had 27 chart hits during this period, including a number one, I'll be Home, in 1956.

Other big hits included Friendly Persuasion, Love Letters in the Sand and Speedy Gonzales. The films he appeared in include Journey to the Centre of the Earth and April Love. A devoted Christian, Pat still presents a weekly The Pat Boone Hour radio show on America's SirusXM '50s Gold.

JOHNNY MATHIS (91 IN SEPTEMBER)

The American singer-songwriter is one of the best-selling artists of the last seventy years. He first charted in Britain in 1958, but it was to be another eighteen years before he achieved his first, and only number one, When a Child Is Born, which was the Christmas chart topper 50 years ago, in December 1976. The evergreen Johnny only officially retired from touring and live performances last year, as he approached his 90th birthday.

JOHN LEYTON (WAS 90 IN FEBRUARY)

Frinton-on-Sea born, the actor and singer, who got to number one in 1961 with Johnny Remember Me, and number two with the follow up Wild Wind, recently celebrated his 90th birthday. In the 1960s Leyton also appeared in such iconic films as The Great Escape (as Willie the tunnel king) and Von Ryan's Express.

ENGLEBERT HUMPERDINCK (90 IN MAY)

Born Arnold George Dorsey in Leicester in 1936, Englebert took his unusual stage name from a German composer. He enjoyed two million-selling number one hits in 1967, Release Me and The Last Waltz. A string of other middle-of-the-road hits followed and in his remarkable 70-year career, he has sold an estimated 140 to 150 million albums worldwide.

On March 20 the legendary vocalist begins another tour of the US and then Australia and New Zealand, playing Las Vegas four times.

"All I really want to do now is work," he told the Express in 2022 after the death that year of Patricia, his beloved wife for over half a century. "I just want to do that until God calls me."

His millions of adoring fans around the world will hope that's still some time away.

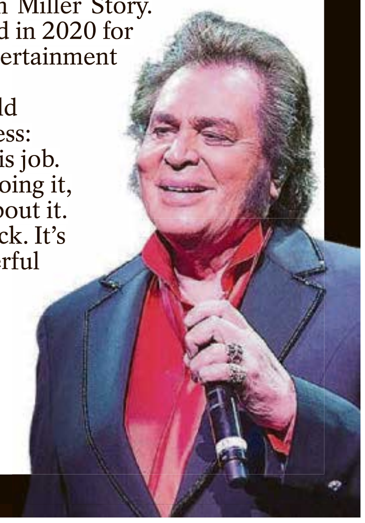
SIR TOMMY STEELE (90 IN DECEMBER)

Hailed as Britain's first homegrown rock star and our own answer to Elvis Presley, Steele first topped the charts nearly 70 years ago, with his version of Singing the Blues, in January 1957.

Over the next four years he had no fewer than 16 hit singles. In his remarkable career he has had leading roles in films and musicals such as Half A Sixpence and Finian's Rainbow and is thought to have made more appearances at the London Palladium than any other artist.

In his 80s he was still performing in his show The Glenn Miller Story. He was knighted in 2020 for services to entertainment and charity.

In 2015 he told the Daily Express: "I love doing this job. When I'm not doing it, I am thinking about it. I do it for the kick. It's the most wonderful thing in the world, believe me."


Englebert performs in Texas in 2015

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'Rated Excellent'

This mower boasts some impressive features, too! With its 5-position cutting height adjustment, you have full control over the length of your grass (from 25-65mm). The ergonomic handle design with three height positions ensures comfortable operation for users of all heights.

It's easy to empty, thanks to the mulching plug and generous 35L grass catcher bag. Plus, its clever collapsible design makes it so easy to store away, too.

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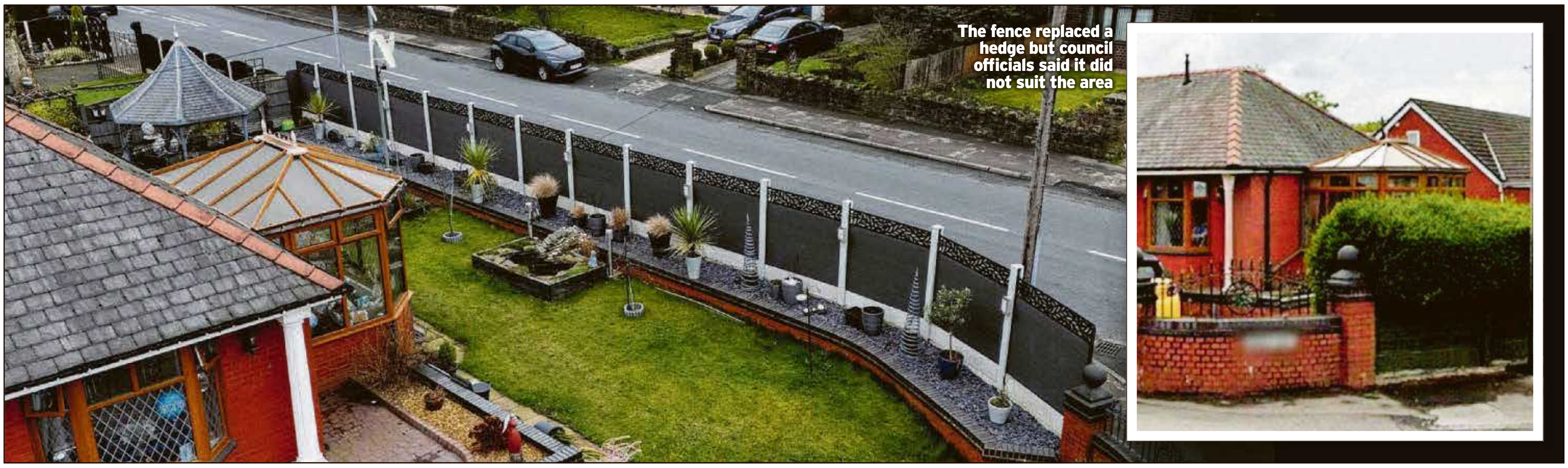


The fence replaced a hedge but council officials said it did not suit the area

Post haste... 7ft fence may be torn down

BY **CHARLIE FENTON**

A COUPLE who put up a 7ft fence to stop passers-by looking into their garden may now be forced to rip it down.

David and Denise Hopwood spent £4,500 on the grey composite barrier to replace a 9ft hedge, which was difficult and expensive to maintain.

A neighbour complained and David, 67, and Denise, 66, sought retrospective planning permission.

But this was refused because the 82ft-long structure was out of keeping with the "character and appearance of the surrounding area" opposite open fields and countryside.

The pensioners hit back, claiming the hedge had cost them £800 a year to look after and that the fence had "transformed" their lives.

They appealed the decision but the council has now doubled down after a site visit, claiming the fence "appears a discordant and strident feature in the street scene".

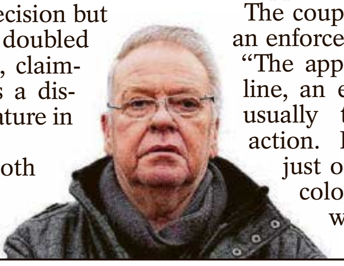
David said: "We both have arthritis, and the hedge was out of control – we weren't able to look after it. We put it up for privacy and security, as well as it being ideal for maintenance purposes.

"I feel we have been hard done by."

After removing the hedge and before putting the fence up, the couple said they had resorted to pegging blankets on the washing line to stop passers-by looking into their home.

However, the council said there was "insufficient evidence" to suggest that a safe and private environment "could not be achieved in a manner which causes less harm to the character and appearance of the area".

The couple have yet to receive an enforcement notice, but said: "The appeal is the end of the line, an enforcement notice is usually the next course of action. Hopefully, they will just order us to change the colour and not replace it with something else."



David appealed decision

Record-breaker bike for sale

BY **CHARLIE WATTON**

AN iconic motorcycle which became the first to hit speeds above 300mph is going under the hammer.

The aircraft-shaped Silver Bird streamliner was built by daredevil Don Vesco to race on the Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah, US. Fitted with two Yamaha engines, it broke records when it hit 303mph in 1975.

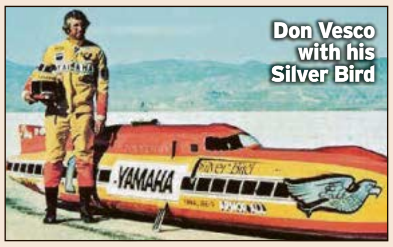
Three years later Vesco renamed it the Lightning Bolt and used Kawasaki engines, helping it hit 318mph.

Mecum Auctions is hosting the sale of the 51-year-old bike in Glendale, California, on March 21.

A spokesman said: "This historic record-setting motorcycle broke national and international land speed records in the 1970s, fitted with both Yamaha and Kawasaki motors.

"The dual paint scheme replicates the original designs."

In 2001 Vesco set the land speed record for a wheel-driven car in the Turbinator, reaching 458mph, a year before his death from cancer at 63.



Don Vesco with his Silver Bird

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30-SECOND CHALLENGE

JUST follow the instructions from left to right, starting with the number given to reach an answer at the end of the row. Set your own 30-second challenge: for the very young or arithmetically rusty, you have 30 seconds for the BEGINNER task. For a greater challenge, try BEGINNER and INTERMEDIATE in 30 seconds. True mental gymnasts should try INTERMEDIATE and ADVANCED in 30 seconds together.

Today's answers can be found in the puzzles pullout

										YOUR ANSWERS
Beginner	42	÷7	-2	SQUARE IT	+56	÷6	+43	5/11 OF THIS	-17	
Intermediate	69	+154	REVERSE THE DIGITS	÷7	-14	x6	75% OF THIS	TAKE THE SQUARE ROOT	x14	
Advanced	16	SQUARE IT	+236	INCREASE BY 25%	-349	4/7 OF THIS	+76	5/6 OF THIS	-167	

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

SATURDAY, MARCH 14
LOTTERY
10 30 36 44 45 58 59

THUNDERBALL
5 8 24 26 32 5

FRIDAY, MARCH 13
EUROMILLIONS
13 17 26 41 48 4 10

THUNDERBALL
5 11 18 28 31 7

THURSDAY, MARCH 12
SET FOR LIFE
5 7 16 32 34 7

THE HEALTH LOTTERY

SUNDAY, MARCH 15
2 13 32 37 50 40

SATURDAY, MARCH 14
15 25 30 39 42 1

The Health Lottery has raised more than £135m for health-related causes since 2011. Details at thehealthlotteryfoundation.org.uk

PHONE POLL RESULTS

We asked in our poll on Friday:
Should Keir Starmer now refer himself to the independent ethics tsar?

YES: 99%
NO: 1%

SUDOKU

Fill in all the squares so that each row, each column, and each 3x3 square contain all the digits from 1 to 9

	4	9		1		3		
5				4	3	1	9	
8			7				4	
	9	5		7	6			3
	8	6				4	5	
				8		6	1	
9				6	4			2
	6	7	1			5		4
		4		3			6	

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MORE PUZZLES – PULLOUT
SATURDAY'S SOLUTION

1	4	5	7	2	6	9	8	3
8	3	6	4	9	5	7	1	2
2	7	9	8	1	3	6	4	5
3	9	4	6	8	7	2	5	1
6	1	8	2	5	4	3	9	7
5	2	7	1	3	9	8	6	4
9	6	1	3	4	2	5	7	8
4	5	2	9	7	8	1	3	6
7	8	3	5	6	1	4	2	9

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Charge! Chris built power bank for car and house from 500 old vapes

Vape hater builds an e-cig rider...

BY **JACK FIFIELD**

CHRIS Doel got so frustrated with vape waste that he recycled 500 to power his electric car.

The engineer had already stripped down the lithium batteries to create a rechargeable device big enough to run his home for eight hours.

But he was driven on to repurpose the power bank for an EV, once he'd got one.

Chris, 27, picked up an £800 2007 G-Wiz – named the worst car that year by TV's Top Gear – which has a 48v battery and 50mph top speed.

He spent every spare minute for five months rewiring and sorting out the legal paperwork, including the MoT, before taking it for a spin.

Chris, of Rugby, Warks, said: "I made a big enclosure – worst-case scenario, if it were to go up in flames, I would want it to be at least somewhat contained."

The G-Wiz ran for 18 miles on his battery. Chris, who started his mission with used puffers donated by a vape shop, said of the devices: "They are crazy, absolutely shouldn't exist."

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Mighty fine foods

US shop sells American fare – in the Cotswolds

BY **FILIPA GASPAR**

RICH Americans flocking to the Cotswolds are being provided with a taste of home from a posh delicatessan run by one of their own.

Jesse D’Ambrosi says business is booming thanks to a growing clientele, including celebrities.

Among the goods she sells are Hershey chocolate bars, American pickles and Goldfish crackers.

Homesick Yanks can also buy A1 Steak Sauce, Welch’s grape jelly and Peeps marshmallow candy at D’Ambrosi Fine Foods in Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire.

Jesse, 44, who lives in the market town with her eight-year-old daughter, said: “I’m sticking with the traditional super-nostalgic recognisable products that we all grew up with.

Flag

“Americans who moved to the Cotswolds love the shop – everybody loves it. I also have a very large celebrity clientele but I have to be very discreet about it.”

A-listers recently spotted in the picturesque region include Taylor Swift, Gwyneth Paltrow, Brad Pitt and Kendall Jenner.

Tom Cruise is said to be house-hunting, as are Beyonce and her husband Jay-Z, while US TV star Ellen DeGeneres and her actress wife Portia de Rossi have lived there for two years.

Jesse, who flies a Stars and Stripes outside her shop, believes US celebrities are tempted to “The Hamptons of England” because they can live “very discreetly here”.

She added: “Even though it’s a place where people have fancy cars and big properties, they can still do it behind closed gates.

“If you want to have anonymity here you can. People aren’t going to bother you.”

Turmoil under Donald Trump has added to the allure, she suggested.

“There will be people that are politically motivated to leave the States, certainly. Things are not peaceful there at the moment and it seems to be getting worse.”

Along with US staples, Jesse, from Boston, offers food to go and catering, wines, liquors, homemade candles and floristry. She says she “unquestionably” caters to the wealthier side of the Cotswolds.

“Quite a few of my clients live in London and have a second house here that they visit over the weekends to entertain friends and have some quiet time and a country escape,” she said. “Stow is a very touristy kind of place but we are not really out for that market.

“A lot of tourists come looking for something cheap and quick and it’s not necessary what we are doing.

“I probably have the 1% here. The vast majority of my clients are very comfortable.”

Peeps
COTTON CANDY
Peeps
Marshmallow

D'AMBROSI FINE FOODS

Jesse and her store in Stow-in-the-Wold, where you can find Peeps Cotton Candy and other items beloved by Yanks

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Crafted from sturdy steel and cast iron with a durable powder-coated finish, the bench is designed to remain strong and resilient through all seasons. The slatted seat allows rainwater to drain away quickly, helping it dry faster after showers while keeping the bench looking neat.

Comfortably seating two people, it features a supportive backrest, gently curved seat, and well-placed armrests for relaxed outdoor seating. Whether enjoying a quiet moment alone or sharing conversation with a friend, this bench offers a simple and elegant place to pause and enjoy your garden.

✓ Size: H89 x W128 x D58.5cm
✓ Assembly required

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BEAUTY GET THAT GLOW

Edited by **LAURA MULLEY**

FRENCH FANCIES

Essential Parfums has just landed at John Lewis, and it's well worth a trip to smell the 10-scent line-up. The French brand works with some of the industry's most respected perfumers and keeps prices accessible by cutting back on excess packaging and marketing. With 100ml EDPs priced at £89 each and a Discovery Set for £25, I promise you'll find your spring fragrance match in one of these (mine is Divine Vanille).

Build barriers

As someone whose skin feels tight and flaky, I'll try anything promising transformed skin in two weeks – and Aestura's Atobarrier365 body cream, £29 at Sephora, claims to do just that. Launched after the success of its best-selling face cream, this boosts skin hydration by +271% with micro-fine ceramide technology to target dryness and support the skin barrier.

YOU DEW YOU

Revolution's Superdewy SPF30 Skin Tint, £13.99 in eight shades, has just landed in Boots. The lightweight base is designed for all skin types, including sensitive and acne-prone, and uses 12% zinc oxide to deliver mineral broad-spectrum UV protection.

Added vitamin C and barrier-supporting ingredients mean it boosts glow while helping to defend skin.

SPRING STAPLES

This month's OK! Beauty Box Glow Up Edit, worth over £95 but £8.99 for new subscribers, is a spring reset in five full-size products, all chosen to boost radiance with minimal effort. From Gatineau's Peptide Lip Treatment and lash-lifting heroes from KAB Cosmetics and Saint Luxe, to Mudmasky's Glow-Up Cleanser and Glow Core Glow Drops, it's all about fresh skin, defined eyes and youthful shine. Get yours from okbeautybox.co.uk

PHOTOGRAPHY: DENNIS PEDERSEN

HEALTH & BEAUTY

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PLUS Puzzles

BLURRED LINES

The Morning Show star Karen Pittman, right, is the face of Merit's new Signature Lip Blush, £25 at Sephora. A welcome upgrade from dry, flat lipsticks, it's sheer, softly blurred and comfortable to wear – still matte in finish but with the lightness of a balm. Tap it on for a wash of colour or build it up for more impact. With gel-wrapped pigments and eight shades spanning nudes, pinks and berries, it's the modern matte we've been waiting for.

HEALTH LIVE LIFE WELL

Edited by **MATT NIXSON AND HANNA GEISSLER**

Waking up to fantastic fibre

With 'fibremaxxing' identified as one of the food trends of 2026, HANNA GEISSLER asks the experts what it is, and how to eat better without any side effects

EAT SMART
Apple a day to feed your gut

Fibre has long been sidelined in the nutrition discussion – but this hidden hero is finally getting a chance to shine, with the hot wellness trend of "fibremaxxing". And it's long overdue, as many of us have no idea how much fibre we should be consuming, or how many grams are in an apple or slice of white bread. The knowledge gap means 96% of adults and teenagers do not meet the recommended daily fibre intake (30g and 25g), says the UK National Diet and Nutrition Survey, used by governments to monitor nutrition.

This may be about to change, with the drive for fibremaxxing, which is all about increasing your fibre intake and eating more whole plant foods. And in a recent report, Marks &Spencer identified fibremaxxing as one of the five food health trends set to dominate 2026.

Experts have warned that reaching for fibre-rich foods without doing research could have unpleasant consequences.

We've asked nutritionists and dietitians to give us the low-down on how to get the best results.

WHAT IS FIBRE?

Fibre is a type of carbohydrate found in plant-based foods such as fruits, veg, grains, pulses and seeds. Unlike other nutrients, it is not digested but helps to keep the digestive system healthy and can prevent constipation, among other benefits.

Louisa Brunt, a senior nutritionist at M&S Food, describes fibre as "a hidden hero in our diets".

She says: "Internally at M&S we say that fibre is sexy! Found in plant-based foods, it's so important to our nutrition as it helps keep our digestive system running smoothly and plays an important role in supporting overall health, supporting gut health, helps us stay fuller for longer, stabilises blood sugar levels and supports heart health by reducing LDL (bad) cholesterol."

FIBRE FAN
Nutritionist Louisa

High-fibre diets have been linked to a lower risk of heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes and bowel cancer.

There are two types of fibre: soluble and insoluble. Soluble fibre, found in fruit, vegetables and pulses, dissolves in water to form a gel, aiding in lowering cholesterol and managing blood sugar. Insoluble fibre, found in the outer shell of seeds, grains, fruits and vegetables, does not dissolve, adding bulk to stools to prevent constipation.

Soluble fibre can also help feed beneficial gut bacteria such as lactobacillus and bifidobacteria, with the fibre acting as a prebiotic to encourage the flourishing of a healthy microbiome.

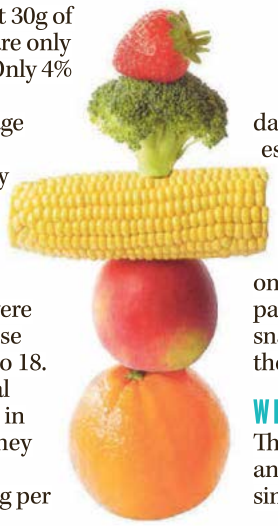
Fibre can also be taken in pill form or powder as a laxative. Some people with certain health conditions may need to restrict their fibre intake, so always follow your doctor's advice.

HOW MUCH FIBRE DO WE NEED?

Adults in the UK are recommended to eat 30g of fibre a day but research has found most are only managing around 16.4g – just over half. Only 4% were meeting the recommendation, with cereals the biggest source of fibre for all age groups, followed by vegetables.

For children, recommendations vary by age group: 12.5g for those aged 18 months to three years, 14.5g for those aged four to 10 years, and 15.4g for those aged 11 to 18 years. Around 22% of children aged 18 months to three years were meeting the target, along with 14% of those aged four to 10, and 4% of those aged 11 to 18.

A recent survey of 2,000 adults by cereal brand Weetabix found 49% felt confident in their fibre knowledge and 52% believed they were hitting targets. However, only 8% correctly identified the recommended 30g per day intake. Most vastly underestimated it, with an average estimate of 22.9g.



Sian Porter, a dietitian to the Weetabix Food Company, says: "The easiest ways to increase fibre are to add fibre-rich ingredients to meals and make simple additions or swaps, such as adding fruit to your cereal, sprinkling nuts or seeds on yogurt or soup, choosing wholegrains over white rice or pasta, keeping edible skins on fruit and veg and swapping snacks like crisps for nuts, or meat for beans and lentils. Build these changes gradually and drink plenty of fluids."

WHAT IS FIBREMAXXING?

This viral social media trend has led to an explosion of videos and posts about how to eat as much fibre as possible. It is similar to the fitness trend of "protein-maxxing", but focuses heavily on whole plant foods rather than relying on supplements. Fibre fanatics have shared their recipes for dense bean salads packed with ingredients such as chickpeas, lentils and kidney beans, or taken on the challenge of eating more than 30 different plants in a single week to diversify their gut microbiome. Some have even dubbed it a weight-loss aid that's a "natural GLP-1" – making you feel full, like weight-loss jabs.

M&S customer surveys have also shown people are becoming more aware of fibre and recognising its importance.

Louisa says: "Thanks to social media trends, fibre is being pushed into the spotlight, becoming the next high protein, with growing customer demand and more customers are seeking high fibre options in their everyday diets."

In a recent customer M&S customer survey, 92% indicated wanting support to increase their fibre intake, she adds.

IN THE MIX *Veggie winner*

WHAT CAN GO WRONG?

As with almost any food trend, taking it to the extreme can be dangerous. Gastrointestinal experts have warned of nasty side effects for those who increase their fibre intake too rapidly or far exceed daily recommendations.

Kirsten Jackson, a gut health specialist known as The IBS Dietitian, says: "Most of the fibre people are consuming is from low-quality sources such as highly processed wheat flour in a pizza.

"So yes, an increase in fibre is good and needed but I would not advise 'fibremaxxing', which is a trend that encourages people to eat as much fibre as possible.

"For the average person, going from zero to 100 will cause a range of GI discomforts such as bloating, loose stools, abdominal pain and even constipation in some.

"And for the one in 10 people who have IBS, increasing fibre intake without any strategy could quite quickly cause a whole host of gastrointestinal symptoms as many fibre sources are high in FODMAPs [carbohydrates that are poorly absorbed in the gut]."

> *'The gut is a muscle so you need to train it like this, slowly increasing intake'*

HOW CAN YOU SAFELY INCREASE YOUR INTAKE?

Kirsten advises upping your fibre gradually. "The gut is a muscle so you need to train it like this, slowly increasing," she explains. Louisa agrees: "We want to help people get more fibre in their diets but not go from 3g a day straight to 30g."

You could start by learning a little about how much fibre is in the food you eat. The British Nutrition Foundation's website provides advice about 10 of the best sources of fibre, including peas, potatoes with skin on and dried fruits. Other reliable sources of information include the NHS website (nhs.uk) and the charity Guts UK's website (gutscharity.org.uk).

Once you have an idea of how much fibre you consume, you could begin increasing your intake by around 5g every few days, giving your gut microbiome time to adjust. You may also need to increase your intake of fluids and water to help fibre move smoothly through your digestive system.

"Start small and build up," Louisa adds. "A good tip is to stagger fibre intake across meals and snacks throughout the day, be careful not to overload your digestive system with fibre as this can be uncomfortable. Your gut is like a muscle which you need to train. For example, sprinkling chia seeds on your breakfast, or opting for wholemeal bread at lunchtime instead of white, are some easy quick wins to adding in more fibre."

M&S has created a new Nutrient Dense range in collaboration with the British Nutrition Foundation, with high-fibre products that also contain at least one of 10 vital nutrients including vitamin D, iron and folate. For example, eating two slices of its Nutrient Dense Super Seeded Oaty Bread with peanut butter would start the day with 15g of fibre.

Sainsbury's has also launched a new Small but Mighty range of products under 350 calories, packed with protein and fibre.

Examples of high-fibre meals include porridge topped with nuts, seeds and fruit; lentil curry with brown rice; and wholegrain pasta with pesto and vegetables. If you have a limited budget, frozen or canned vegetables or canned mixed beans can help increase the variety of fibre sources in your diet.

SNACK ATTACK *Nuts and seeds pack a fibre punch*

LOUISA'S TOP FOODS TO GIVE YOU A BOOST

WHOLEGRAINS – brown and wholegrain varieties of rice, pasta, bread and other grains are richer sources of fibre than white varieties. That's because wholegrains retain the entire grain, including the germ, endosperm and bran layers.

BEANS AND PULSES – a plant-based fibre and a source of protein, beans and pulses contain on average 2.5 times more fibre than two slices of white bread.

NUTS AND SEEDS – contain soluble and insoluble fibre, great to sprinkle on soups, salads or breakfast.

M&S Nutrient Dense Super Seeded Oaty Bread, packed with sunflower seeds, linseed, oats and pumpkin seeds, contains 13g fibre per portion, and is great toasted and loaded with nut butter and fresh raspberries.

VARIETY – An M&S H50 shot contains 4g of fibre in one easy shot. The fibre comes from baobab and Jerusalem artichoke.

Louisa adds: "Aim for variety. The important thing about fibre is getting lots of different types of fibre from different food sources. Think beta-glucans from oats, oligosaccharides from fruits and wheat bran from pasta and bread."

The Nutrient Dense range also includes cocoa chia mousse, satay chicken with black rice and mango and cauli rice prawn paella.

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NUTRIENT DENSE M&S
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DR ROSEMARY LEONARD

YOUR HEALTH MATTERS

Will HRT stop me feeling so moody around my kids?

Q I'm 46, and have been taking the combined contraceptive pill for many years, and its suited me well. However, recently I've been feeling tired and I'm more short-tempered with my kids. I don't have any flushes or sweats, but several friends are on HRT and say how well they feel, so I'm wondering if I should switch to it. Would it help with my moodiness?

A The combined pill contains synthetic oestrogen and progesterone, which stop the natural functioning of the ovaries, preventing ovulation. In contrast, HRT contains much lower doses of hormones that closely mimic natural oestrogen and progesterone and is designed to top up the hormones no longer being produced by the ovaries. It does not prevent ovulation, so it's not a contraceptive.

The pill completely overrides the natural cycle, and can mask the menopause. However, in the pill-free week, the ovaries do normally produce small amounts of hormones, and as the menopause approaches, this does not happen, so some perimenopausal women do notice they have some flushes and sweats on the days when they are not taking the pill.

The average age for a woman to reach the menopause in the UK is 51, and while some women do have their last period earlier than this, at 46 you are young to be menopausal.

The only way to find out if you are is to stop the pill for a few months and track your natural cycle. If your periods return to a regular cycle, then you aren't perimenopausal, and HRT is not going to help you. But if your cycle is erratic, or you start to have flushes or sweats, you could be perimenopausal, in which case HRT might be beneficial.

Either way you should use a barrier method of contraception until advised otherwise by your doctor. Some women say the pill makes them moody, but it if you have been taking it for years and this is a recent development, it's more likely something else is to blame, such as stress or simply not getting enough sleep.

Q I have very dry eyes, which are helped by using lubricating drops in the morning and evening. But weirdly enough, when I'm outside, particularly if it is cold or windy, I have the opposite problem, with tears running down my face. Why is this and is there anything I can do about it?

A Tears are a complex mix of water, mucus and oils, and they not only lubricate the front of the eye but help to protect it from irritants and infections. The oil and mucus also help the watery part of tears to stick to the front of the eye.

Small amounts of tears are produced all the time, but production increases when eyes are irritated, for example from chemicals in onions, and in response to emotional distress.

Dry eyes occur when you are not able to produce enough tears, which can make them feel gritty and uncomfortable, especially first thing in the morning and towards the end of the day.

It's a common problem, especially in older women and though it can be linked to other problems, such as rosacea, or dryness in other areas such as the mouth, it often occurs on its own for no apparent reason.

The lack of a protective layer in the front of the eye can make it more susceptible to irritation from cold winds, which in turn increases tear production, and the lack of the oily, mucus film means these excess tears don't stay in the eye but rather spill over and run down your cheeks.

The oily component of the tear ducts comes from the meibomian glands, which are along the edge of the upper eyelids, and in many with dry eyes the ducts from these become blocked.

You can help to clear the ducts with a twice daily routine of placing a warm, damp pad on your eyelids for at least five minutes, then gently massaging along the edge of the lids. Eating more oily fish rich in omega 3 fatty acids may be helpful too.

BITTER PILL
Short-tempered with children

Q My 15-year-old son has just been diagnosed with exercise-induced asthma. He's now using an inhaler regularly which is helping, but friends have told me wheezing problem can be caused by allergies. Should I be altering his diet?

A In exercise-induced asthma, the airways in the lungs become narrowed during or after physical activity, leading to feeling short of breath and coughing. Though this can happen in people who have wheezing at other times, it can also occur in those who never wheeze other than during exercise. It used to be blamed on breathing in cold air, but now it's thought dry air is the trigger, as this dehydrates the airways which narrows them.

Air pollution and activities that involve long periods of deep breathing, such as long-distance running, can increase the risk of exercise-induced asthma occurring.

Certain airborne allergens such as house dust mites, dander from dogs and cats, and tree and grass pollens, are known to cause allergic reactions and trigger asthma attacks in some people, but only 8% of children and 2% of adults have wheezing triggered by eating certain foods. If your son only has wheezing when he exercises it is unlikely a food allergy is to blame, unless you have noticed he tends to wheeze more after eating specific foods.

It may be worth checking if he is allergic to any of the common airborne allergens, which can be done via a blood test.

In the past treatment for exercise-induced asthma was with an inhaler before exercising (usually salbutamol) that widened the airways, but now the focus is on preventing them narrowing. This is done using a steroid inhaler regularly every day, even on days when you're not doing exercise. This not only stops the breathlessness and coughing, but can help improve sporting performance.

If you have a health question for Dr Leonard, email her in confidence at yourhealth@express.co.uk. Dr Leonard regrets she cannot enter into personal correspondence or reply to everyone

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PUSHY CHILDREN NOW INFLUENCING PARENTS

Young adults are having a growing influence on their parents' health habits, research by Boots shows.

Three in four people admitted they would be more likely to consider a health check if their children suggested it.

More than 40% of parents said their children had made them think more seriously about their health. And nearly a third said their child had actively encouraged them to make healthy lifestyle changes, such as increase their physical activity. More than a third of parents questioned revealed they had acted on the health advice from their youngsters too. Children being more in tune with the latest health advice and wellness social media trends were among the reasons.

Parents of Gen Z youngsters (those now aged 14 to 29) were most likely to say their offspring's social media savviness was why they trusted them.

The research also showed less than half of adults had an essential health check in the past six months. Boots is now working with TikTok stars Paul Gillet, 59, and his daughter Phoebe, 25, to try to encourage a more proactive approach to health.

Paul said: "I used to be the one booking appointments for Phoebe, reminding her to take her vitamins and greens. But now those roles are starting to switch, and she's constantly encouraging me to try new things and the latest health trends but also be more mindful of my health."

The free Health MoT at Boots is available in most stores in England and offers an NHS blood pressure check and an optional BMI calculation and waist circumference measurement and is available for people aged 40 and over. It can be booked via boots.com

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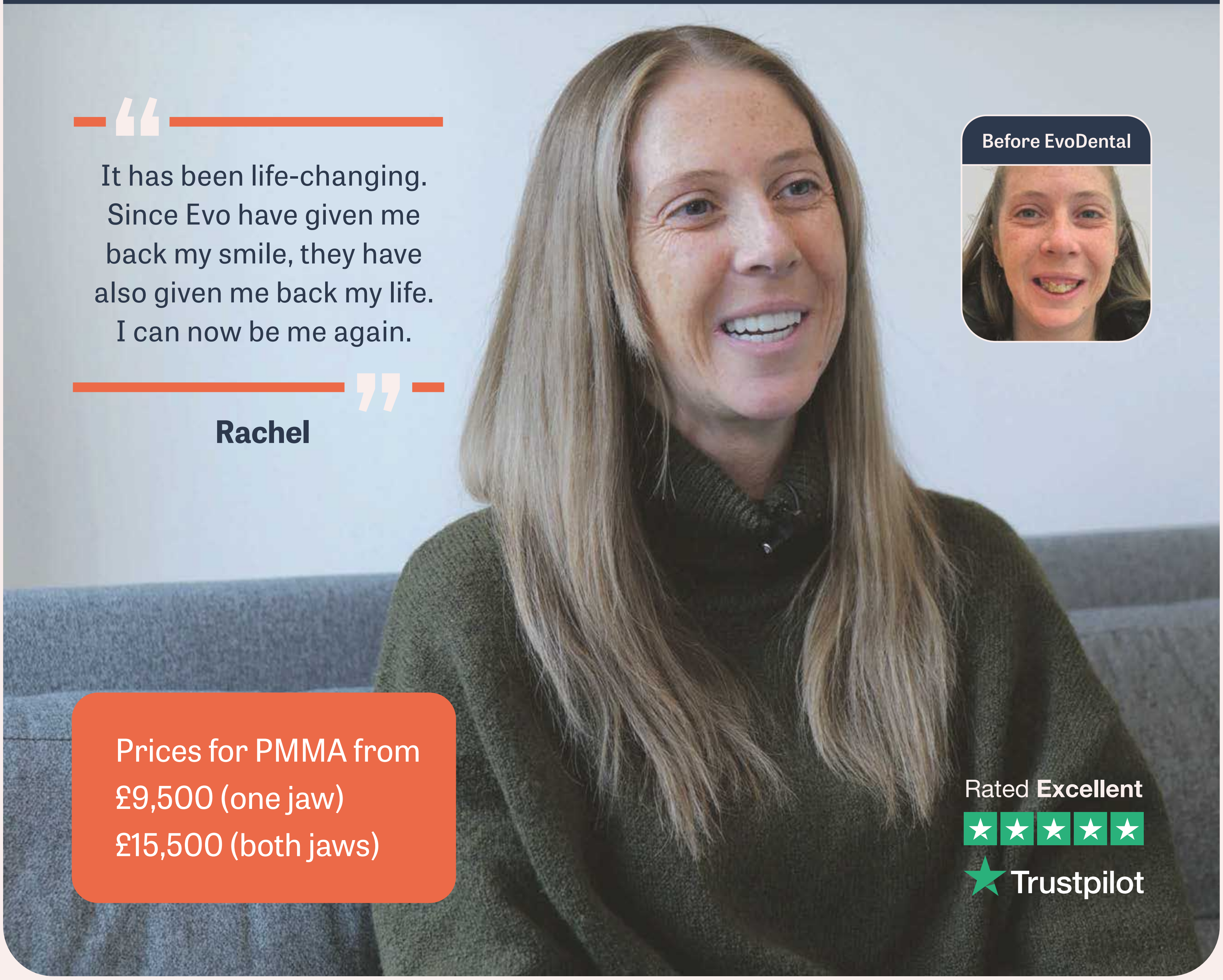

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TODAY'S TV ONES TO WATCH

by **MIKE WARD** *TV critic*

MASTERCHEF: THE PROFESSIONALS, BBC1, 9PM

WE'VE reached the semi-finals, with just eight of these pro chefs left in contention. And their first task this evening? Ah, now this is good one, not least because it's also environmentally responsible and, come on, who doesn't love a plate of environmentally responsible dinner?

What each chef has to do is create their own "no-waste" dish – ie. one that uses every single part of whatever stuff they've chosen to cook with. Yes, every single part.

"We want to see the best – and the worst – of these ingredients used," judge Monica tells them. I do hope she's a fan of chicken feather pie.

MASTERMIND, BBC2, 8PM

HERE'S another BBC show with "Master" in its title that's got to the semi-final stage. What an amazing coincidence. Tonight's specialist subjects are the late musician Jeff Buckley, the managerial career of Rafael Benitez (that's just his career in football management, by the way; not the time he managed a branch of Woolworths, although I hear he did a fine job, as always), plus Andy Warhol and the Routemaster bus.

And, yes, I am indeed about to suggest that Andy Warhol and the Routemaster bus would make a fine name for a band. That said, Andy Warhol and the National Express would make a better one.

Pick of the day

DOM CHINEA'S CORNISH WORKSHOP, U&YESTERDAY 8PM

POND DREAM *Dom has big plans*

DIVING IN TO A NEW WAY OF LIFE

EVER dowsed for water? You know, where you walk slowly across open land, holding a bit of forked willow, or metal rods – or a pendulum, assuming you've one to hand – and trust it to tell you where there's underground water to be found. Me neither. Not because I think it sounds silly, let me stress, but because I think it sounds mental. Or at least I used to.

Having watched this latest episode of Dom Chinea's Cornish Workshop, I'm starting to think there may be something in it after all.

That's because Dom, the Repair Shop guy, is thinking so himself. And remember, he's an actual engineer.

It turns out he's kept one thing high on his priority list since he and his wife Maria relocated to Cornwall from Kent. "I'm hoping I can keep Maria's excitement alive," he says.

By that, of course, he means her excitement for the pond he wants to build. Or "pond/lake/swimming pool", as Maria envisages it.

But where will he find the water to fill it? A man called David reckons he can help. David works for a drilling company.

"As an engineer," says Dom, "I can't wait to get an eyeful of all this exciting high-tech equipment." At which point, David whips out two metal rods.

Then he sets to work, dowsing-wise. Watching him, Dom is aghast. In fact, he's more than that: Dom is several ghasts. Not just because David is trusting this far-from-scientific technique but because this far-from-scientific technique seems to be working. "Is that not insane?!" Dom cries. Followed by: "Can I have a go?"

What the dowser has to do, David explains, is tell the rods specifically what to look for. "Ask them rods to find you water," he says.

And can you guess what happens next? Yes, you can, largely because I've pretty much already told you.

"That's the scariest thing I've ever done," Dom concludes. But he's not complaining.

"The pond is a goer," he cries.

Well, maybe. He's assuming (1) the rods aren't fibbing, (2) getting to the water won't require them to drill down to Melbourne, and (3) they end up finding more than just a trickle. Personally, I'd just use the kitchen tap.

BEST DOC

ASSISTED DYING: WHAT NEXT? BBC1, 8PM

Fergus Walsh speaks to patients receiving end-of-life hospice care and also travels to Western Australia, where assisted dying has been available as a choice since 2021.

BEST DRAMA

GONE ITV1, 9PM

The psychological thriller continues as fresh information about Sarah's disappearance begins to emerge, making family liaison officer Annie see the case in a new light.

BEST COMEDY

SMALL PROPHETS BBC2, 10PM

The sitcom concludes as Michael's peculiar creatures are now fully grown and have the ability to tell the future, but his dad warns him time is running out to get the answers.

BEST ARTS

TRACEY EMIN: IMAGINE BBC4, 10PM

An evening dedicated to the artist begins with chats with the late Alan Yentob, followed by an exploration of the affinities between her art and that of Edvard Munch.

TODAY'S PREVIEWS ARE ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE

FILM RATINGS

★★★★★ BRILLIANT
★★★★ VERY GOOD
★★★ GOOD
★★ AVERAGE
★ BAD

(R) REPEAT

ALL PROGRAMMES ARE LISTED IN GREENWICH MEAN TIME (GMT).

BBC One

6.00am Breakfast News headlines.
9.30 Morning Live Magazine.
10.45 Crimewatch Live In 2005, two best friends died in an arson attack while sleeping.
11.30 Homes Under the Hammer Properties in Stoke-on-Trent, Rugby and Leeds. (R)
12.15pm Bargain Hunt Izzie Balmer and Nick Hall help the teams find items in Staffordshire.
1.00 BBC News at One; Weather
2.00 Bear Grylls: Wild Reckoning Ben wants to drop out of university, but his parents worry he's rushing into a decision.
2.30 Amanda & Alan's Spanish Job The duo tackle the second guest bedroom. (R)
3.00 Escape to the Country
3.45 The Repair Shop on the Road Dominic Chinea helps revive an Edwardian pianola at Britannia Panopticon.
4.30 The Finish Line Quiz show, hosted by Roman Kemp and Sarah Greene.
5.15 Pointless Quiz show. (R)
6.00 BBC News at Six; Weather
6.30 Regional News; Weather

BBC Two

6.05am Bargain Hunt (R)
6.50 Sign Zone: Dragons' Den (R)
7.50 Match of the Day (R)
9.00 BBC News Headlines.
12.15pm Politics Live Stories from Westminster and beyond.
1.00 Impossible Gameshow. (R)
1.45 Unbeatable Quiz show. (R)
2.30 The Tournament Quiz, hosted by Alex Scott. (R)
3.15 The Hairy Bakers The duo mill their own flour to make a classic brown loaf. (R)
3.30 Scotland from the Sky How aerial photography has revealed Scotland's hidden ancient past. Last in series. (R)
4.30 Antiques Roadshow Michael Aspel and the antiques team value finds in Selby, turning up an embroidered picture. (R)
5.15 Flog It! From Bangor. (R)
6.00 Richard Osman's House of Games Steve Backshall, Steve Pemberton, Sam Quek and Rachel Riley take part.
6.30 Do You Know Your Place? With Susan Calman, Max Fosh and Noreen Khan, beginning with Dundee.

ITV1

6.00am Good Morning Britain A lively mix of news, current affairs and lifestyle features.
10.00 This Morning Topical daily magazine, featuring a mix of celebrity chat, showbusiness news, advice and discussion. Including Local Weather.
12.30pm ITV News; Weather
12.55 Regional News; Weather
1.00 Celebrity Catchphrase Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show, with Denise Lewis, Deborah Meaden and Kevin Whately guessing well-known phrases. (R)
2.00 Lingo Contestants from Birmingham take on the reigning champions. (R)
3.00 Riddiculous Jonathan and Dale, Shivani and Lokesh, and Lily and Torie compete.
3.59 Regional Weather
4.00 Tipping Point Quiz, hosted by Ben Shephard. (R)
5.00 The Chase Jo, Andrew, Irene and Charlie take part.
6.00 Regional News; Weather
6.30 ITV Evening News A round-up of the headlines; Weather

Channel 4

6.25am Cheers Triple bill. (R)
7.45 Everybody Loves Raymond Triple bill of the sitcom. (R)
9.10 Frasier Four episodes. (R)
11.10 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (R)
12.05pm Channel 4 News Summary Headlines.
12.10 Find It, Fix It, Flog It (R)
1.10 Matt Baker: Our Farm in the Dales The presenter tries to rescue his parents' farm. (R)
2.10 Countdown With Nicki Chapman in Dictionary Corner.
3.00 A Place in the Sun (R)
4.00 A New Life in the Sun Renovation rookies dream big in the Italian Alps. (R)
5.00 Four in a Bed In Cornwall.
5.30 Come Dine with Me The first party from Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire.
6.00 NEW **A Place in the Sun: What Happened Next?** Jean Johansson revisits Lisa and Rob in France's Charente region, while Jasmine Harman heads to Velez-Malaga to see how Alison and her daughter Paula are getting on.

5

6.00am Milkshake! Children's TV.
9.15 Jeremy Vine Discussion.
11.30 Storm & Alexis Discussion and debate, with Storm Huntley and Alexis Conran.
12.45pm 5 News at Lunchtime
12.50 Matt Allwright Debate on the day's biggest stories, and consumer advice to help viewers save money.
2.00 Vanessa Discussion show, presented by Vanessa Feltz.
3.00 The Good Ship Murder In Crete, a photographer is discovered murdered at the scene of a past shoot. (R)
4.00 Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun Jo and Pete prepare for their first-ever paid gig.
5.00 5 News at 5 Headlines.
6.00 Love Nature Examining the relationship between killer whales and their prey.
6.05 Susan Calman's Grand Day Out The comedian explores Bristol and the Cotswolds, getting access to some of engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel's groundbreaking designs. (R); 5 News Update

4.30pm, THE FINISH LINE: Roman Kemp and Sarah Greene

8pm, MASTERMIND: Clive Myrie

8.30pm, CORONATION STREET: Sam, Megan and Eva

8pm, BATCH FROM SCRATCH: COOKING FOR LESS: Joe Swash

8pm, MOTORWAY COPS: CATCHING BRITAIN'S…

7
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11
12 MIDNIGHT

7.00 The One Show Alex Jones and Roman Kemp present topical stories and chat.
7.30 EastEnders There is drama for the Brannings as they spend Mother's Day with the Beales, Bea plays with fire, and Jean extends an olive branch.
8.00 Assisted Dying: What Next? – Panorama Fergus Walsh reports on the future of assisted dying in the UK.
8.30 Trace, Track, Get My Car Back The work of trackers using hi-tech methods to hunt down stolen vehicles. (R)
9.00 MasterChef: The Professionals The semi-finals begin, with just eight contenders in the running. The first task requires them to deliver a no-waste dish, that makes use of every part of their chosen ingredients.
10.00 BBC News at Ten
10.30 Regional News; Weather
10.40 Trying Double bill. During an activity break with the children, Nikki worries that she hasn't been able to bond with them as well as Jason has. Karen realises that she hates her job; Nikki and Jason prepare for Tyler's seventh birthday party, but he is overwhelmed by all the attention. Karen finds a novel way to tell Scott he is going to be a father.
11.35 Have I Got News for You Martin Clunes is the guest host, with panellists Helen Lewis and Ian Smith. (R)
12.05am FILM Far from the Madding Crowd (2015, 12) A Victorian woman trying to maintain her independence attracts the attention of three men. Period drama, with Carey Mulligan. ★★★★ **2.00** Weather for the Week Ahead **2.05-6.00am** BBC News

7.00 Global Eye Investigations from BBC correspondents all over the world, revealing secrets and exposing crime.
7.30 Grand Tours of Scotland's Lochs Paul Murton discovers a forgotten First World War German prison camp. (R)
8.00 Mastermind The second semi-final sees the specialist subjects include Andy Warhol and the Routemaster bus.
8.30 University Challenge Amol Rajan hosts as two teams who lost their first match play a second quarter-final.
9.00 Inside the Rage Machine The BBC's social media investigations correspondent Marianna Spring uncovers the inside story of how social media algorithms designed to connect people have been helping to tear them apart.
10.00 Small Prophets The bottled prophets are looking unwell, but Michael still has not asked his questions and Brian warns him and Kacey that time is of the essence. Comedy, starring Pearce Quigley. Last in series.
10.30 Newsnight; Weather
11.00 Hostage Tonight's edition of the documentary series investigates the immediate fallout from the kidnap of John Cantlie and James Foley, as a perilous manhunt was launched by an expert hostage negotiator. (R)
12.00m't FILM American Fiction (2024, 15) Satire, starring Jeffrey Wright, Tracee Ellis Ross and Sterling K Brown. ★★★★★ **1.50** Sign Zone: Countryfile. Charlotte and Vick explore sugar beet harvesting. (R) **2.45** Sign Zone: Sort Your Life Out with Stacey Solomon (R) **3.45-6.00am** This Is BBC Two

7.30 Fletchers' Family Farm Kelvin and Liz scan their sheep to find out how many are pregnant, while Marnie and Milo head out on an egg hunt when their chickens become very free range and decide to lay all over the farm.
8.00 Emmerdale Graham works hard to keep Joe on side and Jacob is struggling at work.
8.30 Coronation Street Sam falls unconscious, Kit encounters a witness to his assault on Mal, and Christina orders the undertakers to cheer up.
9.00 Gone Annie and her colleagues begin to see things in a new light as fresh information continues to emerge. Meanwhile, Two suspects' try to account for their movements on the days surrounding Sarah's disappearance.
10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather
10.30 Regional News; Weather
10.45 Oscars Highlights The best moments from the 98th Academy Awards ceremony at the Dolby Theatre, which was hosted by Conan O'Brien. Sinners, One Battle After Another, Marty Supreme, Hamnet, Frankenstein, F1, The Secret Agent, Bugonia, Train Dreams and Sentimental Value battled it out for the evening's main award. Plus, a host of British actors were nominated for acting awards.
12.05am Shop on TV **3.00** Martin Clunes' Islands of the Atlantic. The actor embarks on an epic journey to explore the ocean's islands, beginning with Sao Tome and Principe and the Bijagos Islands. (R) **3.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05-6.00am** Alan Titchmarsh's Gardening Club. In Cornwall. (R)

7.00 Channel 4 News A round-up of all the latest headlines, and political developments.
7.55 The Political Slot Danny Kruger, MP for East Wiltshire, sets out Reform UK's plans to provide more support for Britain's veterans.
8.00 Batch from Scratch: Cooking for Less Suzanne Mulholland and Joe Swash help a single mother in Aberdeen, who is struggling to get her kids into healthy eating habits and often doesn't have time to eat herself.
9.00 Handcuffed: Last Pair Standing With the final getting ever closer, the handcuffed couples face a new challenge: their first holiday away together. Jonathan Ross sends them across the UK on iconic British breaks.
10.00 First Dates Two sisters have never been in a romantic relationship with a guy. They decide to attend the restaurant to each take a dive into dating. Plus, naked cleaner Elleigha is confident in everything – except romance. (R)
11.05 Naked Attraction Sarah from Plymouth becomes the first returning picker having previously been on the show as David. Meanwhile, Twenty-year-old plumber Jamie from Swansea takes part looking for love. (R)
12.10am Walter Presents: The Eclipse. Drama set in the Aubrac region of France. **1.05** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (R) **1.55** A Woman of Substance: double bill (R) **3.45** Stacey Solomon's Renovation Rescue (R) **4.40** Hollyoaks Omnibus (R) **5.45-6.25am** Countdown. Word game. (R)

7.00 Celebrity Puzzling Jeremy Vine hosts as regular team captains Sally Lindsay and Carol Vorderman welcome doctor and TV presenter Ranj Singh and journalist Holly Hamilton to tackle cryptic puzzles; 5 News Update
8.00 Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders Officers pursue suspects armed with a crowbar and an air rifle who robbed a member of the public, and the police helicopter is called in to assist when the chase goes off road.
9.00 Police Interceptors: Taking Down the Shoplifting Gangs PC Elijah must collate intelligence from 23 police forces across the country before putting evidence to two people suspected of being tied to UK-wide shop thefts.
10.00 999: Police Hour of Duty Real-time documentary following police officers on duty between 9pm and 10pm. The first episode features a woman being attacked by her daughter and a prostitution ring. (R)
11.05 Traffic Cops Derbyshire police target gangs stealing vans to order, with officers on the hunt for a transit van taken without keys from a driveway, but the suspects change its number plates, making tracking it much harder. (R)
12.05am Police Interceptors (R) **1.00** Cruise TV (R) **2.00** Teleshopping (R) **2.30** Casualty 24/7: Every Second Counts **4.10** Friends (R) **4.35** The Highland Vet (R) **5.25** Entertainment News on 5 **5.35** The Adventures of Paddington (R) **5.45-6.00am** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom (R)

ITV2 FREEVIEW 6

6.00am CITV **7.30** Dress to Impress **8.25** Billie and Greg: The Family Diaries **9.25** The Only Way Is Essex **10.20** The Real Housewives of Miami **11.15** The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills **12.10pm** Ant & Dec's Limitless Win **1.10** Wheel of Fortune **2.10** The Only Way Is Essex **3.10** The Real Housewives of Cheshire **4.10** The Real Housewives of Miami **5.00** The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills

6.00 Celebrity Catchphrase With Naga Munchetty. Mo Gilligan, and Joanna Page.

7.00 Wheel of Fortune Gameshow.

8.00 Ant & Dec's Limitless Win NHS matrons Karis and Tim play the game.

9.00 The 1% Club Hosted by Lee Mack.

10.00 Family Guy Animated triple bill.

11.35 American Dad! Stan accidentally liberates a secret CIA AI system.

12.05am American Dad! **12.35** Bob's Burgers: double bill **1.30** Plebs **2.00** Deal or No Deal **2.55** Unwind with ITV **3.00-6.00am** Teleshopping

U&Dave FREEVIEW 19

6.00am Teleshopping **7.10** Hairy Bikers' Best of British **8.00** Border Force: America's Gatekeepers **10.00** Railroad Australia **11.00** Rick Stein's Far Eastern Odyssey **12.00noon** Border Force: America's Gatekeepers **2.00** Guy Martin: Proper Jobs **3.00** Top Gear **5.00** Hairy Bikers' Best of British. Foraging for food.

6.00 Rick Stein's Far Eastern Odyssey

7.00 Would I Lie to You? Material from the comedy panel show, not originally shown in the series 14 episodes.

7.40 Richard Osman's House of Games Double bill of the quiz show.

9.00 QI XL With Sue Perkins, Romesh Ranganathan and Bill Bailey.

10.00 Have I Got a Bit More 2024 for You

11.00 Taskmaster David Baddiel steers some heavy machinery toward a representation of his childhood crush.

12.00m't Mock the Week **12.40** Would I Lie to You? **2.00** Hate Thy Neighbour **4.00-6.00am** Teleshopping

E4 FREEVIEW 13

6.00am Hollyoaks **6.50** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **7.00** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **8.00** The Goldbergs **9.00** Modern Family **10.00** Married at First Sight Australia **11.35** First Dates **12.35pm** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **1.30** The Simpsons **2.30** Modern Family **3.25** Married at First Sight Australia **5.00** Celebrity Coach Trip

6.00 The Simpsons Double bill.

7.00 Hollyoaks Lucas makes a decision.

7.30 Married at First Sight Australia

9.00 *NEW* **Made in Chelsea** The gang descend upon a Scottish estate.

10.05 Laid Ruby looks into her past relationships and makes a bad mistake.

10.50 Gogglebox Opinions on recent TV.

11.50 First Dates Featuring a man who tells lies to try impress his dates.

12.55am Married at First Sight Australia **2.20** Made in Chelsea **3.10** Gogglebox **4.05** The Goldbergs: double bill **4.55-6.00am** Don't Tell the Bride: Revisited

ITVQuiz FREEVIEW 28

9.00am Deal or No Deal **10.00** Tipping Point **1.00pm** Lingo **2.00** Tenable **3.00** Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? **4.00** Riddiculous **5.00** Deal or No Deal

6.00 Lingo Triple bill. Taking on the reigning Lingo champions this time are partners Jen and James and brothers-in-law Nish and Chris; crossing words to beat the reigning champions this time are mother and daughter Julie and Jess; and friends Fatima and Zainab; sisters Lauren and Ellie and friends Gill and Sue take part.

9.00 Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? Jeremy Clarkson gives six contestants the chance to take their place in the hot seat, and hopefully become the next winner.

10.00 Tipping Point Double bill. Ben Shephard hosts the quiz show in which four players take on an extraordinary machine in the hope of winning £10,000.

12.00m't Tipping Point. Hosted by Ben Shephard. **12.55** Tenable **1.50** Unwind with ITV **2.00-9.00am** Teleshopping

U&Drama FREEVIEW 20

6.00am Teleshopping **7.00** Birds of a Feather **7.40** The Bill **8.35** Doctors **9.50** Classic Holby City **10.50** Classic Casualty **11.55** The Bill **12.55pm** Classic EastEnders **2.10** All Creatures Great and Small **3.10** Howards' Way **4.20** Shakespeare & Hathaway: Private Investigators **5.20** Birds of a Feather

6.00 Last of the Summer Wine Triple bill.

8.00 Judge John Deed The judge must decide the fate of a sick baby when doctors refuse to give further treatment, and a boy convicted of theft dies in custody. Drama, starring Martin Shaw.

10.00 New Tricks The team reinvestigates a union leader's death, but Brian's erratic behaviour threatens to hamper the inquiry.

11.20 Shakespeare & Hathaway: Private Investigators A simple missing person's case takes a dramatic turn.

12.20am The Inspector Lynley Mysteries **2.25** Birds of a Feather **2.55** Copper **4.00-6.00am** Teleshopping

More4 FREEVIEW 18

8.55am Four in a Bed **9.30** Find It, Fix It, Flog It **10.25** A Place in the Sun **11.30** Come Dine with Me: five episodes **2.10pm** Four in a Bed **4.50** Car S.O.S

6.50 The Dog House Australia High-energy kelpie Tess could be the perfect training companion for eight-year-old Sophie. Lolla might be the right big, goofy dog for tai chi instructor Amanda.

7.55 Grand Designs Kevin follows a couple building a home near a West Sussex estuary, creating a biodiverse waterscape and floating the house above it.

9.00 Our Farm Next Door: Amanda, Clive and Kids The Owen family balance lambing season with getting their renovation watertight, and receive news from the planners which could see the scope of the renovation grow massively.

10.00 24 Hours in A&E Double bill.

12.05am 999: On the Front Line. Documentary. **1.10** 24 Hours in A&E **3.20-4.00am** Strangers on a Plane

BBC3 FREEVIEW 23

7.00pm The Catch Up Headlines.

7.05 Waterloo Road Double bill. A student poses problems for Jack; Izzie's ex-husband causes chaos at the school, and Tom confronts Lorna about her miscarriage.

9.00 The Jetty Double bill. Crime drama, starring Jenna Coleman as a detective who uncovers a dark web of secrets in the sleepy town she's always called home; reeling from her discovery about the past, Ember offers to help Riz investigate the Amy Knightly case.

11.00 Caitlin Hanna: Trafficked in Belfast Documentary revealing how the death of a 21-year-old woman fuelled a police investigation that exposed a hidden criminal underworld operating in Northern Ireland.

12.00m't Men of the Manosphere **1.00** Tommy: The Good. The Bad. The Fury **2.00-4.00am** The Jetty

BBC4 FREEVIEW 9

7.00pm Golf: The Players Championship Highlights Action from the prestigious tournament.

8.00 Ireland's Treasures Uncovered Documentary about artefacts that have shaped modern Ireland.

9.00 Call My Bluff With Donald Churchill, Pauline Yates, Joanna Lumley and Frank Kearton.

9.30 Face the Music With Robin Ray, Joyce Grenfell and Bernard Levin.

10.00 Tracey Emin: Where Do You Draw the Line? – Imagine Alan Yentob follows the artist over a year.

11.20 Emin/Munch: Between the Clock and the Bed Charting the affinities between the art of Edvard Munch and Tracey Emin.

12.00m't Nature and Us: A History Through Art **1.00** Mindful Escapes: Breathe, Release, Restore **1.30** Face the Music **2.00-3.00am** Ireland's Treasures Uncovered

GB News FREEVIEW 236

6.00am Breakfast with Eamonn and Ellie **9.30** Britain's Newsroom **12.00noon** Good Afternoon Britain **3.00** Martin Daubney. Updates.

6.00 Dewbs & Co Plain-speaking, straight-talking – Michelle Dewberry delivers her take on the day's news.

7.00 Farage An action-packed hour of topical discussion and debate.

8.00 Jacob Rees-Mogg's State Of The Nation Join Jacob for his unique and unmissable take on the news.

9.00 Patrick Christys Tonight Replay Join Patrick for two hours of spirited debate and news making interviews. Top guests tackle today's issues, with a sharp take on every story.

11.00 Patrick Christys Tonight Late Edition All the major stories

12.00m't The Late Show Live **3.00** Patrick Christys Tonight Replay **5.00-6.00am** Patrick Christys Tonight Late Edition

Variations & S4C

WALES As BBC1 except: 1.35-1.45pm BBC Wales Today; Weather **6.30-7.00** BBC Wales Today. Headlines; Weather **8.30-9.00** Would I Lie to You? Previously unseen material. **10.30-10.40pm** BBC Wales Today; Weather

MERIDIAN As ITV1 except: 12.55-1.00pm ITV News Meridian; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News Meridian. Today's headlines; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News Meridian; Weather

CENTRAL As ITV1 except: 12.55-1.00pm ITV News Central; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News Central. Today's headlines; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News Central; Weather

ITV WALES As ITV1 except: 12.55-1.00pm ITV News Cymru Wales; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News Cymru Wales; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News Cymru Wales; Weather

WEST As ITV1 except: 12.55-1.00pm ITV News West Country; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News West Country; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News West Country; Weather

ANGLIA As ITV1 except: 12.55-1.00pm ITV News Anglia **6.00-6.30** ITV News Anglia; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News Anglia

WESTCOUNTRY As ITV1 except: 12.55-1.00pm ITV News West Country; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News West Country; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News West Country

S4C 6.00am Cyw **12.00noon** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **12.05pm** Cartrefi Cymru **12.30** Heno **1.00** Prosiect Pum Mil **2.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **2.05** Prynhawn Da **3.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **3.05** Am Dro! **4.00** Awr Fawr **5.00** Stwnsh **6.00** Codi Hwyl: Llydaw. John Pierce Jones and Dilwyn Morgan sail up the Elorn River to visit Landerneau. **6.30** Rownd a Rownd **6.57** Newyddion S4C **7.00** Heno **7.30** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **8.00** Y Byd ar Bedwar. Sion Jenkins investigates the situation in Betsi Cadwaladr Health Board's hospitals. **8.55** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **9.00** Cefn Gwlad. Mari Lovgreen meets a farmer-turned-zookeeper. **9.35** *NEW* Y Llinell Las. The rural team investigate the theft of £20,000 worth of cattle. **10.20** Ralio+. The Safari Rally Kenya. Action from the third round of the season **10.50** Sgorio. Action from the Welsh football pyramid, including Caernarfon Town v Connah's Quay and Swansea City v Cardiff City. **11.20-11.45pm** Ar Led

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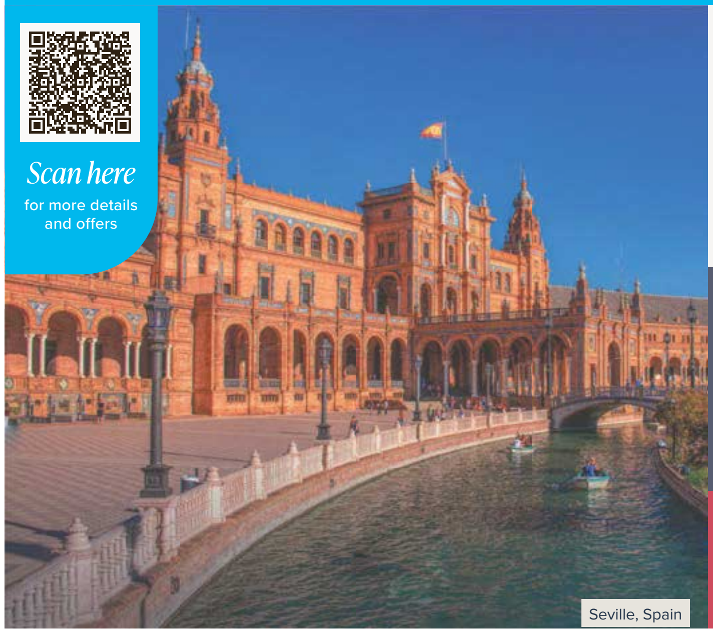

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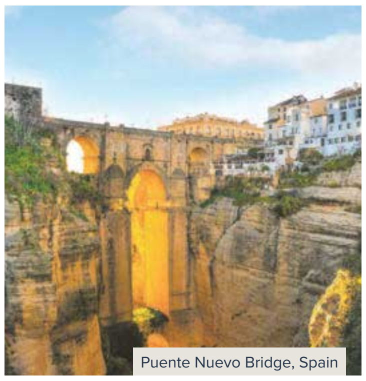

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Sport

SKY SPORTS MAIN EVENT

6.00am Sky Sports Catch Up **7.00** Sky Sports Breakfast **9.00** Ref Watch **10.00** Sky Sports FC
12.00noon Lunchtime Live **2.00** Sports Desk **5.00** The Premier League Show. Latest reports.
6.30 LIVE **MNF** Brentford v Wolverhampton Wanderers (kick-off 8.00pm). Coverage of the match from Gtech Community Stadium. The hosts have a good recent record against the Midlands club having picked up 10 points from a possible 12 in a run that has seen them go undefeated against them since January 2024. The reverse fixture in December saw Brentford end a dreadful run of away form, as they came away from Molineux with a 2-0 win thanks to a second-half brace from Keane Lewis-Potter.
11.00 LIVE **NBA Basketball** Atlanta Hawks v Orlando Magic (Tip-off 11.00pm). The Eastern Conference match from State Farm Arena.
1.30am LIVE **NBA Basketball** Houston Rockets v Los Angeles Lakers (Tip-off 1.30am). The Western Conference match from Toyota Center.
4.30-6.00am Sky Sports News. Headlines.

SKY SPORTS CRICKET

6.00am IPL **8.00** ICC Men's T20 World Cup **9.00** IPL **11.00** Test Cricket **4.00pm** IPL **6.00** Test Cricket **11.00** IPL. Double bill. Rajasthan Royals v Punjab Kings; Delhi Capitals v Gujarat Titans. **1.00-6.00am** Test Cricket: five episodes

SKY SPORTS FOOTBALL

6.00am EFL League One Goals **6.30** EFL League Two Goals **7.00** EFL Highlights **9.00** SPFL Round-Up **9.15** SPFL Highlights **9.45** EFL Highlights **10.00** Irish Football **10.30** EFL League One Goals **11.00** EFL League Two Goals **11.30** SPFL Round-Up **11.45** SPFL Highlights **12.00noon** EFL Highlights **1.45** SPFL Round-Up **2.00** EFL League One Goals **2.30** EFL League Two Goals **3.00** Irish Football **3.30** EFL Highlights **4.00** SPFL Round-Up **4.15** SPFL Highlights **4.45** EFL Highlights **6.00** SPFL Round-Up **6.15** SPFL Highlights **6.30** Bundesliga Highlights Show
7.30 LIVE **EFL** Portsmouth v Derby County (kick-off 8.00pm). Coverage of the Championship match at Fratton Park. Derby are unbeaten in their last seven games against Pompey, but six of those contests ended in draws, including December's reverse fixture at Pride Park, which was 1-1.
10.30 EFL League One Goals **11.00** EFL League Two Goals **11.30** Women's League Cup **12.00m't** Bundesliga Highlights Show **1.00** EFL Highlights **1.15** SPFL Round-Up **1.30** SPFL Highlights **2.00** EFL Greatest Games **4.00** EFL Cup Retro **5.00** EFL Cup Highlights **5.30-6.00am** EFL Trophy Football

SKY SPORTS GOLF

6.00am The Players Championship Official Film **8.00** The Players Championship **5.30pm** The Players Championship Official Film **6.30** DP World Tour Golf **7.00** The Players Championship **8.00** PGA Tour Champions **9.00** PGA Tour Golf **10.00** PGA Tour Golf **11.00** Beyond the Scorecard **11.30** DP World Tour Golf **12.00m't** PGA Tour Golf **1.00** The Players Championship **2.00-6.00am** The Players Championship Official Film

TNT SPORTS 1

6.00am LIVE **Snooker World Open** The first round on the first day of the tournament.
9.00 Premier League **10.30** UEFA Europa League & Conference League Magazine
11.30 LIVE **Snooker World Open** Further coverage from the first round on the first day of the tournament, which takes place in Yushan.
2.30pm LIV Golf. Action from the fourth and final day of the fourth round of the season. **4.00** Premier League **5.30** The Breakdown
6.00 LIVE **Ultimate Pool** Coverage from finals night of the Women's Champions League, as leading eight-ball players battle it out.
9.30 Snooker World Open **11.30** Roll the Tape. Ronnie O'Sullivan's defining moments.
12.00m't LIVE **World Baseball Classic** Coverage from the second semi-final, which takes place at LoanDepot Park in Miami, Florida.
3.30 UEFA Champions League Magazine **4.00-6.00am** Snooker World Open

TNT SPORTS 2

6.00am A Day at the Paralympics **7.00** Serie A **9.00** UEFA Champions League Magazine **9.30** Premiership Women's Rugby **10.30** PREM Rugby Cup **11.30** International T20 Cricket Highlights **12.30pm** Premier League **2.00** PREM Rugby Cup **3.00** Marathons **4.00** Men's Cycling Pro Series **4.30** UEFA Champions League Magazine **5.00** Supercars Championship Highlights **7.00** WRC Review **8.00** Isuzu UTE A-League Highlights **8.30** Ninja A-League Women Highlights **9.00** Fishing: On the Bank **10.00** UEFA Champions League Goals Reload **10.15** UEFA Europa League Goals Reload **10.30** UEFA Conference League Goals Reload **10.45** UEFA Champions League Magazine **11.15** The Gruppetto **11.30** International T20 Cricket Highlights
12.30am Women's T20 International Cricket
1.30 LIVE **Women's International T20 Cricket** New Zealand v South Africa. The second T20 in the five-match series from Seddon Park.
5.45-6.00am TNT Sports Cricket Reload

Entertainment & Factual

ITV3 Freeview 10

6.00am Never the Twain **6.35** On the Buses **7.05** Classic Emmerdale **8.05** Classic Coronation Street **9.10** A Touch of Frost **11.15** Heartbeat **1.25pm** Midsomer Murders **3.35** Classic Emmerdale **4.40** Classic Coronation Street **5.50** Heartbeat **8.00** Midsomer Murders. A man collapses and dies. **10.00** Endeavour **12.00m't** A Touch of Frost **2.00-2.30am** On the Buses

ITV4 Freeview 26

6.00am The Big Match Revisited **8.10** Magnum, PI **9.10** Kojak **10.10** Boon **11.25** The Sweeney **12.30pm** Dempsey and Makepeace **1.35** Magnum, PI **2.35** Kojak **3.35** Boon **4.40** The Sweeney **5.50** Minder **6.55** Sharpe **9.00** FILM Expend4bles (2023/15) Action adventure, starring Jason Statham and Sylvester Stallone. ★★★ **11.05** FILM The Taking of Pelham 123 (2009/15) ★★★ **1.10** Lost **1.55** Minder **2.50** Unwind with ITV **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30-4.00am** Motorsport Mundial

5STAR Freeview 32

8.00am Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun **10.00** Shoplifters: Caught Red Handed **11.00** Traffic Cops **2.00pm** Police Interceptors **5.00** Car Pound Cops: Give Me My Car Back! **6.00** Home and Away **7.00** GPs: Behind Closed Doors **8.00** Casualty 24/7: Every Second Counts **9.00** Ambulance: Code Red **10.00** A&E After Dark **11.00** Skin A&E **12.00m't** Car Crime: Caught on Camera **1.00** GPs: Behind Closed Doors **2.00** Casualty 24/7: Every Second Counts **2.45** Skin A&E **3.35-4.00am** Eggheads

REALLY Freeview 44

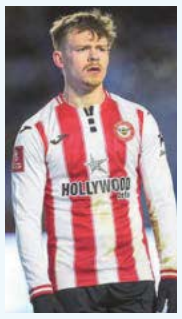
6.00am Fantasy Homes by the Sea **7.00** Cruise TV with LoveitBookit **8.00** Escape to the Country **9.00** Salvage Hunters **12.00noon** Antiques Road Trip **2.00** The Repair Shop **3.00** The Derbyshire Auction House **4.00** Long Lost Family **6.00** The Yorkshire Auction House **8.00** Antiques Road Trip **9.00** The Yorkshire Auction House **10.00** The Yorkshire Auction House **11.00** Celebrity Help! My House Is Haunted **2.00am** Teleshopping **4.00-6.00am** Salvage Hunters

5ACTION Freeview 33

9.00am Entertainment News on 5 **9.15** Police Interceptors **11.10** FILM The Naked Spur (1953/PG) ★★★★ **1.05** FILM Little Big Man (1970/15) ★★★★ **4.00** Trucking Heavy **5.00** Traffic Cops **6.00** Police Interceptors **7.00** Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders **8.00** Police Interceptors **9.00** Highway Thru Hell **10.00** Motorway: Hell on the Highway **11.00** The X-Files **12.00m't** Mud Mountain Haulers **1.00** Outback Truckers **2.00-4.00am** Trucking Hell

SKY ARTS Freeview 36

6.00am Cirque du Soleil: Corteo **8.00** Watercolour Challenge **9.00** Tales of the Unexpected **10.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **11.00** The Directors **12.00noon** Discovering: Susan Sarandon **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Stories from the National Gallery **3.00** Best of Landscape Artist of the Year 2026 **4.00** The Directors **5.00** Discovering: Christopher Plummer **6.00** Tales of the Unexpected: double bill **7.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents: double bill **8.00** Andre Rieu: Live in Dublin **9.45** Pavarotti: 10th Anniversary Gala **11.05** Comedy Legends **12.05am** Jamie Cullum Live at Blenheim Palace **2.30** Voices of Ireland **3.40** Art's Most Erotic **4.40** Auction: Shakespeare Special **5.05-6.00am** Auction



Live MNF
Sky Sports Main Event, 6.30pm
Keane Lewis-Potter (left) and Brentford are enjoying a good season and looking to cement a place in the top half of the Premier League table. Can they earn another three points tonight against Wolves?

U&GOLD

7.10am Don't Wait Up **7.50** Porridge **8.30** The Green Green Grass **9.10** Are You Being Served? **9.50** Last of the Summer Wine **11.10** Hi-de-Hi! **11.50** Porridge **12.25pm** Keeping Up Appearances **1.00** The Green Green Grass **1.40** Dad's Army **2.20** Hi-de-Hi! **3.00** Are You Being Served? **3.40** Porridge **4.20** Dad's Army **5.00** Last of the Summer Wine **6.20** Keeping Up Appearances **7.00** Porridge **7.40** Dad's Army **8.20** Are You Being Served? **9.00** I'm Alan Partridge **10.20** Men Behaving Badly **11.00** Live at the Apollo **12.00m't** I'm Alan Partridge **1.20** Men Behaving Badly **2.00** Live at the Apollo **3.00-4.00am** Don't Wait Up

U&YESTERDAY Freeview 27

6.10am Great Coastal Railway Journeys **6.35** Villages by the Sea **8.00** Bangers & Cash **10.00** War Factories **11.00** Rise of the Nazis: The Downfall **12.00noon** Antiques Roadshow **2.00** Bangers & Cash **4.00** War Factories **5.00** Rise of the Nazis: The Downfall **6.00** Antiques Roadshow **7.00** Simon Reeve's South America **8.00** Dom Chinea's Cornish Workshop. Dom Chinea tries out water dowsing so he can fill his new pond. **9.00** Indian Ocean with Simon Reeve. Travelling from Indonesia to Australia. **10.00** Bangers & Cash **2.00-3.00am** American History's Biggest Fibs with Lucy Worsley

U&ALIBI

7.10am Murdoch Mysteries **9.00** Father Brown **10.00** The Mentalist **11.00** Hudson & Rex **12.00noon** My Life Is Murder **1.00** Death in Paradise **2.00** Murdoch Mysteries **4.00** The Mentalist **5.00** Hudson & Rex **6.00** My Life Is Murder. A man is found dead in an alley after a fight at his brother's wedding. **7.00** Father Brown **8.00** Death in Paradise **10.00** Father Brown **12.00m't** Death in Paradise **1.00** My Life Is Murder **2.00** The Red King **2.50-4.00am** Murdoch Mysteries

SKY ONE

6.00am Mornings **6.30** Mornings **7.00** Mornings with Ridge and Frost **7.30** Mornings with Ridge and Frost **8.00** Stargate SG-1 **9.00** NCIS: Los Angeles **10.00** Will & Grace **11.00** The Simpsons **12.00noon** David Attenborough's Wild City **1.00** Hawaii Five-0 **2.00** NCIS: Los Angeles **3.00** S.W.A.T **4.00** Police 24/7 **5.00** The Simpsons **6.00** The Office (US) **7.00** The Simpsons **8.00** Agatha Raisin **9.00** NEW Andor. Rogue One prequel, starring Diego Luna. **10.00** Rooster **10.40** Last Week Tonight with John Oliver **11.25** Grimm **12.20am** Police 24/7 **1.10** Road Wars **2.00** The Dyers' Caravan Park **3.00** Hawaii Five-0 **4.00** S.W.A.T **5.00-6.00am** Highway Patrol

SKY ATLANTIC

6.00am Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets **7.55** The Sopranos **10.00** The Gilded Age **4.30pm** Game of Thrones **9.00** DTF St Louis **10.00** All Her Fault **11.00** The Undoing **12.00m't** The Wire **1.05** True Blood **2.05** Game of Thrones **4.10-6.00am** Fish Town

SKY WITNESS

6.00am Bondi Rescue **7.00** Nothing to Declare **9.00** Border Security USA **10.00** Air Ambulance ER **11.00** Caught on Dashcam **12.00noon** FBI **1.00** The Rookie **3.00** Law & Order: Criminal Intent **4.00** Nothing to Declare **7.00** Police 24/7 **8.00** Caught on Dashcam **9.00** Law & Order: Criminal Intent **10.00** The Equalizer. Delilah is threatened. **11.00** FBI **1.00am** Matlock **2.00** The Rookie **3.00** Road Wars **4.00** The Force: Manchester **5.00-6.00am** Stop, Search, Seize

SKY COMEDY

8.00am Will & Grace **9.00** Ballers **10.15** Sex and the City **11.25** Entourage **12.30pm** Will & Grace **1.30** Sex and the City **2.45** Ballers **3.55** And Just Like That **4.45** The Office (US) **5.45** Will & Grace **6.45** Community **7.45** Sex and the City **9.00** Real Time with Bill Maher. The comedian and guests discuss the week's events. **10.10** And Just Like That **11.10** Community **12.10am** Entourage **1.15** Ballers **2.25** Barry **3.45-5.00am** Veep

DISCOVERY

6.00am How It's Made: Dream Cars **7.00** Tanked **9.00** Hoffman Family Gold **11.00** Building Off the Grid **1.00pm** Gold Rush **3.00** How It's Made **5.00** Alaska: Homestead Rescue **7.00** Wheeler Dealers **8.00** Ed Stafford's Rite of Passage **9.00** Maine Cabin Masters **10.00** Ancient Unexplained Files **11.00** Expedition Bigfoot **12.00m't** Deadliest Catch **1.00** Maine Cabin Masters **2.00-3.00am** Ancient Unexplained Files

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

8.00am Dutch Caribbean Coastguards **9.00** Air Crash Investigation **10.00** Rise and Fall of the Mayas **11.00** Strangest Things **12.00noon** Destruction Decoded **1.00** Car S.O.S **2.00** Air Crash Investigation **3.00** Planes that Changed History **4.00** Amsterdam Central 24/7 **5.00** Car S.O.S **6.00** Inside Melbourne Airport **7.00** Air Crash Investigation **9.00** To Catch a Smuggler. HSI St Louis pursues gun traffickers after they flee an undercover deal. **10.00** Yukon Rescue. The community of West Dawson is cut off. **11.00** Air Crash Investigation **12.00m't** Car S.O.S **1.00** To Catch a Smuggler **2.00** Made in a Day **2.30** Lords of War **3.20** Food Factory USA **4.10** When Sharks Attack **5.00-5.30am** World of Cruising

Radio

BBC RADIO 1

97.6-99.8MHz 6.58am Newsbeat **7.00** Radio 1's Longest Ride with Greg James **10.30** Newsbeat **10.33** Rickie, Melvin and Charlie **12.45pm** Newsbeat **1.00** Sam & Danni **3.30** Newsbeat **3.33** Radio 1's Longest Ride with Greg James **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Radio 1's New Music Show with Jack Saunders **8.00** Sian Eleri **11.00** Rock Show with Daniel P Carter **1.00am** BBC Introducing Rock on Radio 1 with Alyx Holcombe **2.00** Radio 1 Anthems **4.00** Radio 1 Pop Anthems **5.00-6.58am** Radio 1 Early Breakfast with Dean McCullough

BBC RADIO 2

88-91MHz 6.30am Scott Mills **9.30** Vernon Kay **12.00noon** Jeremy Vine **2.00** Trevor Nelson **4.00** Sara Cox **6.30** Sara Cox's Half Wower **7.00** Edith Bowman **9.00** The Blues Show with Cerys Matthews **10.00** DJ Spoony **12.00m't** OJ Borg **3.00** Dance Sounds of the 90s with Vernon Kay **4.00-6.30am** Owain Wyn Evans

BBC RADIO 3

90.2-92.4MHz 6.30am Breakfast **9.30** Essential Classics **1.00pm** Classical Live **4.00** Composer: Gaetano Donizetti **5.00** In Tune **7.00** Classical Mixtape **7.30** Radio 3 in Concert **9.45** The Essay: Scotland Rocks **10.00** Night Tracks **11.30** 'Round Midnight **12.30-6.30am** Through the Night

BBC RADIO 4

CHOICE
The Race To Control The World, Monday-Friday, Radio 4, 1.45pm
With the USA and China locked in a race to dominate the world of Artificial Intelligence, this programme ask who has an advantage. Misha Glenny explores some of the key areas of this rivalry – from AI to robotics to satellites, and explains how the global contest is increasingly impacting all our lives.

FM 92.4-94.6MHz 6.00am Today **9.00** Start the Week **9.45** Like and Subscribe: How YouTube Changed the World **10.00** Woman's Hour **11.00** How Reading Made Us **11.45** Shock and War: Iraq 20 Years On **12.00noon** News **12.04** You and Yours **12.57** Weather **1.00** The World at One **1.45** The Race to Control the World **2.00** The Archers **2.15** Prepper **2.45** Opening Lines **3.00** A Good Read **3.30** You're Dead to Me **4.00** Britain By Bodycam **4.30** The Kitchen Cabinet **5.00** PM **5.57** Weather **6.00** News **6.30** Unspeakable **7.00** The Archers **7.15** Front Row **8.00** How Did We Get Here? **8.30** BBC Inside Science **9.00** Start the Week **9.45** Like and Subscribe: How YouTube Changed the World **10.00** The World Tonight **10.45** Book at Bedtime: Banshee. Anthology of short stories. **11.00** An Eye for a Killing **11.30** Today in Parliament **12.00m't** News **12.30** Shock and War: Iraq 20 Years On **12.48** Shipping Forecast **1.00** As BBC World Service **5.00** News Summary **5.04** Yesterday in Parliament. Reports. **5.32** Weather **5.34** Shipping Forecast **5.43** Prayer for the Day **5.45-6.00am** Farming Today

BBC RADIO 5 LIVE

693/909kHz 6.00am 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Naga Munchetty **2.00pm** Matt Chorley **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport **9.00** 5 Live Sport **10.00** Tony Livesey **1.00am** Dotun Adebayo **5.00-6.00am** Wake Up to Money

BBC RADIO WALES

FM: 94.6MHz 6.00am Radio Wales News Update **6.05** Wake Up with Radio Wales **6.31** Books That Made Me with Lucy Owen **7.00** Radio Wales Breakfast **9.00** Bronwen Lewis **11.59** The Phone In **2.00pm** Behnaz Akhgar **5.00** Radio Wales Drive **6.30** After the Cameras **7.00** Huw Stephens **10.00** Eleri Sion **12.00m't** Relax with Radio Wales **1.00-6.00am** As Radio 5 Live

CLASSIC FM

100-102MHz 6.30am Classic FM Breakfast with Dan Walker **9.00** The Classic FM Hall of Fame Hour with Dan Walker **10.00** Alexander Armstrong **1.00pm** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Relaxing Evenings with Zeb Soanes **10.00** Calm Classics with Hannah Scott-Joynt **1.00am** Bill Overton **4.00-6.30am** Early Breakfast

ABSOLUTE RADIO

DAB 6.00am Dave Berry **10.00** Leona Graham **1.00pm** Ben Burrell **4.00** Bush and Richie **7.00** Danielle Perry **10.00** Jay Lawrence **1.00-6.00am** Dan Noble

Movies

FILM4

11.00am The Bravados (1958/PG) Western, starring Gregory Peck and Joan Collins. ★★
1.00pm The Last Wagon (1956/PG) Western, starring Richard Widmark. ★★★★
3.00 The Black Arrow (1948/U) Swashbuckling adventure, starring Louis Hayward. ★★★
4.35 How Green Was My Valley (1941/U) Oscar-winning drama, starring Walter Pidgeon and Maureen O'Hara. ★★★★
6.55 Behind Enemy Lines (2001/12) Bosnian War drama, starring Gene Hackman. ★★★★
9.00 Captain Phillips (2013/12) Fact-based thriller, starring Tom Hanks. ★★★★
11.40 Crawl (2019/15) Horror thriller, starring Kaya Scodelario and Barry Pepper. ★★★
1.25-3.15am Dark River (2017/15) Period drama, starring Ruth Wilson. ★★★

SKY CINEMA PREMIERE

6.50am Plainclothes (2025/15) Drama, starring Tom Blyth and Russell Tovey. ★★★
8.35 Sketch (2025/12) See 6.20pm. ★★★
10.20 I Know What You Did Last Summer (2025/15) Horror, with Madelyn Cline. ★★★
12.15pm Materialists (2025/15) See 8.00pm for details. ★★★
2.15 Coyotes (2025/15) See 10.00pm. ★★★
4.00 Jurassic World: Rebirth (2025/12) Fantasy adventure, starring Scarlett Johansson and Jonathan Bailey. ★★★★
6.20 Sketch (2025/12) Fantasy comedy, starring Tony Hale and D'Arcy Carden. ★★★
8.00 Materialists (2025/15) Romantic comedy, with Dakota Johnson and Chris Evans. ★★★
10.00 Coyotes (2025/15) Comedy thriller, starring Justin Long and Mila Harris. ★★★
11.45 Bring Her Back (2025/18) Thriller, starring Billy Barratt and Sora Wong. ★★★★
1.35am Plainclothes (2025/15) See 6.50am for details. ★★★
3.20 Adulthood (2025/15) Comedy drama, with Josh Gadd and Kaya Scodelario. ★★★
5.10-7.00am Coyotes (2025/15) See 10.00pm for details. ★★★

SKY CINEMA DRAMA

4.25pm About a Boy (2002/12) Comedy, with Hugh Grant and Toni Collette. ★★★★
6.10 Parachute (2023/15) Comedy, starring Courtney Eaton and Thomas Mann. ★★★★
8.00 I, Tonya (2017/15) Biopic, starring Margot Robbie and Sebastian Stan. ★★★★
10.00 The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas (2008/12) Drama, with David Thewlis. ★★★★
11.40 Two Mules for Sister Sara (1970/15) Western, starring Clint Eastwood. ★★★★
1.35am Love Story (1970/PG) Drama, starring Ryan O'Neal and Ali MacGraw. ★★★★
3.20 No Escape (2015/15) Drama, starring Owen Wilson and Pierce Brosnan. ★★★
5.05 Sky Cinema Preview-March 2026
5.40-7.35am Turtles All the Way Down (2024/12) Drama, with Isabela Merced. ★★★★

SKY CINEMA FAMILY

4.10pm Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events (2004/PG) Comedy adventure, starring Jim Carrey. ★★★★
6.00 Pokemon: Detective Pikachu (2019/PG) Adventure, starring Ryan Reynolds. ★★★★
8.00 The BFG (2016/PG) Fantasy adventure, starring Mark Rylance. ★★★★
10.00 Spy Kids 2: Island of Lost Dreams (2002/U) Family adventure, starring Antonio Banderas and Steve Buscemi. ★★★★
11.45 The Karate Kid (1984/12) Martial arts drama, starring Ralph Macchio. ★★★★
1.55am Pokemon: Detective Pikachu (2019/PG) See 6.00pm. ★★★★
3.45 Paulie (1998/U) Family adventure, starring Gena Rowlands and Tony Shalhoub. ★★★
5.25-7.40am The Wiz (1978/U) Musical based on The Wizard of Oz, with Diana Ross. ★★

TALKING PICTURES TV

4.25pm Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of Four
6.30 The Vise Drama anthology.
7.00 The Footage Detectives
8.00 Mother Love Award winning drama.
9.10 School for Secrets (1946/PG) War drama, with Ralph Richardson. ★★★
11.15 The Best of Benny Hill (1974/PG) Compilation of sketches. ★★★
12.55am A Good Read: Sherlock Holmes
1.45 Budgie Crime drama, starring Adam Faith.
2.45 Who Goes Next? (1938/PG) ★★★
4.25 Crime Story
5.30-6.00am Honey West

GREAT! MYSTERY

4.00pm Murder, She Wrote Whodunnit.
6.00 Sue Thomas: FBEye Crime drama.
7.00 Castle Detective drama series.
8.00 Unforgettable Crime drama series.
9.00 In Plain Sight Mystery drama series.
10.00 White Hot: A Sandra Brown Mystery (2016/PG) Crime drama, starring Shenae Grimes-Beech and Sean Faris. ★★
11.55 Aurora Teagarden Mysteries: How to Con a Con (2020/PG) Thriller. ★★
1.50am Snatched from Mommy (2021/PG) Thriller, starring Chelsea Hobbs. ★★
3.20-6.00am I Do, Or Die: A Killer Arrangement (2020/PG) Thriller. ★★

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"So impressed, it's worked wonders on our patio and drive and it's so easy to use. It even got rid of marks that I've been trying to remove for years."

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Letters

Edited by GREG MORGAN

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Trump's fighting talk is hollow and meaningless

I'M A LITTLE confused as to whether or not the US and Israel are succeeding in this conflict ("Putin helping Iran wage war on Western forces", March 13).

Donald Trump keeps talking about this conflict ending soon, with all the firepower they have available. If so, why is it that Iran can comfortably hit oil tankers in the Gulf, so affecting oil supplies, and is also able to hit various countries around the Middle East?

If both the US and Israel have good inside information, why can't they deal with the sites that are continuing to inflict this damage?

I cannot see an end to the conflict because Iran is still wielding considerable retaliation and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future, whatever Trump may boast.

Robin Clark,
Gosport, Hants

Drone wars are cheaper – so why not build more?

THE Iran conflict seems to be proving the effectiveness of drones – hard to destroy and hard to locate mobile launching pads or production bases. Politicians and experts have spoken out about the use of very expensive missiles to shoot down cheap drones.

So why is it Western governments have failed to shift military spending towards drone production? Is it that they are cheap and make less profits for the military industry than building aircraft carriers, planes and tanks?

Peter Fieldman,
Florence, Italy

Navy was shipshape when boats fixed by real pros

NOW the chickens have come home to roost regarding our Royal Navy and government stupidity ("Navy ship departs 10 days after base hit", March 11).

Many years ago I served my apprenticeship as a fitter in a ship repair yard on the River Tyne.

At that time all naval ships were repaired in Royal Naval Dockyards, then someone had the idea of using private yards to do some of the work to relieve the pressure.

What a difference the Navy saw immediately. Jobs done in half the time with half the number of men and to a very good standard. And then governments of different colours decided for some reason they didn't need shipyards or dry docks any more and closed them all. We now see the debacle of not being able to get one ship to put to sea to help protect this country.

We are doomed.

Bob Milton,
Newcastle upon Tyne

Britannia waives the rules to leave us high and dry

AMID all the revelations with regard to our military, and the dire state of it, leads me to wonder whether or not it will be appropriate for the singing of Rule, Britannia! at the Last Night of the Proms ("Royal Navy sunk without trace by idiotic politicians", Letters, March 12). All this has come about because this Government, and the others over the last 30 years or so, have left us as sitting ducks.

Ruth Peberdy,
Bridgwater, Somerset

LETTER OF THE DAY

FUEL'S GOLD: Reeves and Miliband are totally at odds

Pumped dry of ideas and inspiration

IT MUST have been a very quiet meeting in Downing Street between petrol retailers, who have taken the opportunity to shove up prices even before crude oil is out of the ground, and two members of a government bereft of ideas who both live on another planet.

You have Rachel from accounts who thinks her policies (which are killing jobs, damaging industry and killing off pensioners) are the right ones for a global oil crisis.

Then there's Red Ed Miliband, who doesn't want us to use any petrol, oil or gas to allow China, India and the US to continue at pace with their mega emissions.

What a shambles ,no wonder there were no worthwhile conclusions.

Barrie Warren,
Bury, Lancs

We're living through dark age of political pygmies

TOTALLY agree with Esther Krakue that this country is cursed with stupid politicians ("Our country has no serious energy policy to speak of", March 12). The majority couldn't run a bath, let a lone the country.

Mike Clifford,
Bideford, Devon

Slave 'owner' prison term should match her victim

WHY has Amanda Wixon, 56, convicted of keeping a vulnerable woman with learning difficulties as a slave for 25 years, only been handed a pitifully inadequate sentence ("13 years in jail for mother of 10 who kept teen as slave", March 13)?

At the very least she should have been sent to jail for the same length of time, 25 years, that she spent physically and mentally abusing her victim (now in her 40s) to such an extent that she now requires 24-hour care. Unfortunately, thanks to a growing army of loony, Leftie, bleeding-heart lawyers and judges, punishments no longer fit the crime.

Bob Readman,
Sevenoaks, Kent

Strictly viewers will waltz off just like axed dancers

IN THIS troubled world, even our familiar pleasures are disappearing. Strictly Come Dancing being at the top of this list ("Murder on the dancefloor in cruel Strictly bloodbath", Letters, March 13).

Why is the BBC trying to ruin this show? Getting rid of all our favourite professional dancers is the kiss of death. Bringing in newbies is not the answer. If they think it will attract the young viewers they are so wrong. And the regular viewers will shun it.

Silvia Walker,
Daventry, Northants

Eat a slice of humble pie Nadiya, and stop moaning

WELL said, Virginia Blackburn (March 12). Why is it certain people cannot accept defeat, Nadiya Hussain being one? The BBC decided she is no longer needed so why play the racism card? Just accept it and move on.

Annette Hale,
Aldridge, W Mids

Seems to be no benefit to life of playing by the rules

YOUR correspondent Terry McCartney complains, quite rightly, that his old-age pension is described as a benefit ("Pension's not a benefit, I paid into it for 50 years", Letters, March 12).

However, should you try claiming non-pension benefits, which some are able to claim because they are on certain other benefits, you will be disappointed. You will find that your old age pension "benefit" is no longer a benefit.

Funny that, but not surprising.

Christopher Humphreys,
Ewloe, Flint

Give £1m to 181 people instead of £181m to one

LAST week it was announced that someone won £181million on EuroMillions, but will that bring them happiness? I doubt it in the long run ("Lucky Brit wins huge prize...but will it be a curse?", March 12). Why can't lottery organisers arrange for 181 people to win a £1m each instead? Do this for each large win, bringing help to more people rather than one person winning so much money.

Jean Angus,
Stanford-le-Hope, Essex

KEIR, FOR THE LOVE OF GOD – GO! MANDY, GIVE US OUR £75K BACK

NO ONE in power seems to come out of the Peter Mandelson saga with any glory ("Kemi: It stinks of a cover-up by this lying PM", March 13).

Our utterly useless Prime Minister only manages once again to show his gross incompetence for the office he holds. It is hardly surprising Keir Starmer, Rachel Reeves, Ed Miliband & Co have done so much damage. We are stuck with them for three more years. The whole affair stinks. Mandelson should be made to pay back the money he received and Starmer must quit.

Dick Bedford,
Cullompton, Devon

TODAY: Monday March 16, 2026

ON THIS DAY

Daily Express
ABDICATION OF THE CZAR
Little Miss VI
£1 War Certificates

109 years ago (1917)

We revealed the news from Petrograd, Russia, that Tsar Nicholas II had been forced to abdicate after the Bolshevik revolution of March 2.

The Tsar (King George V's cousin), Tsarina Alix and their five children were later held prisoner in Siberia before being executed by their captors on July 17, 1918.

Their remains were exhumed and were re-interred in a ceremony held on July 17, 1998.

73 years ago (1953)

Yugoslavia's Marshal Tito became the first ever communist head of state to visit Great Britain.

Travelling by sea, his ship was escorted up the River Thames to Westminster where he was officially greeted by the Duke of Edinburgh, PM Winston Churchill and Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden.

38 years ago (1988)

Saddam Hussein launched an illegal chemical attack on the Kurdish city of Halabja, killing between 3,200 and 5,000 civilians.

Iraqi planes dropped mustard gas, sarin, tabun, VX and cyanide in what remains the world's deadliest chemical weapons attack on a civilian population.

BIRTHDAYS

Ex-footballer **Theo Walcott** is 37. He's still the youngest player to score a hat-trick for England. Torchwood star **Sophie Hunter** is 48. She's married to Benedict Cumberbatch. Actress **Isabelle Huppert** is 73. She often plays villains. Rapper **Flavor Flav** is 67. He wears a clock necklace.

TODAY'S GIGGLE

My friend keeps telling me to stop pretending to be butter. But I'm on a roll now.

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ALDO: why he reminds me of Liverpool great
'Fighter mentality' that ensures Florian will thrive at Anfield
'Aura or no aura, Slot deserves a lot more respect... and a new contract'
Reds' route to the final
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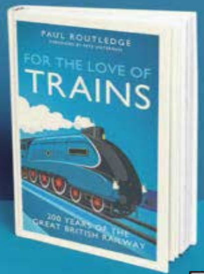
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Foreword by Pete Waterman

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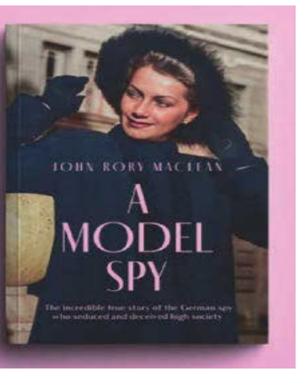
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SCAN ME

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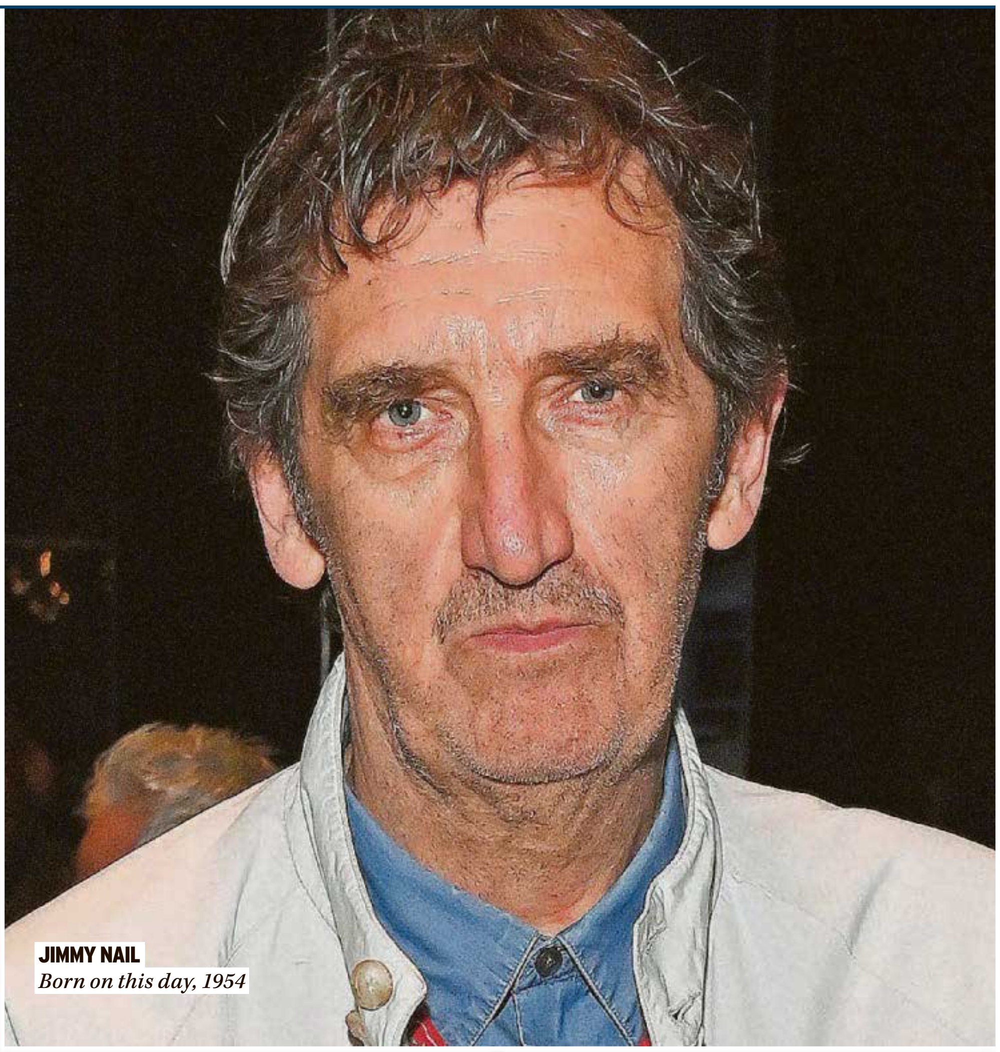

JIMMY NAIL
Born on this day, 1954

ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 20

At times it will be necessary to hold back voicing your thoughts. Stay quiet about issues that could lead to conflict if a certain someone becomes aware of them. You aren't keen on keeping secrets but you understand why you need to. People can rely on you to keep information confidential. Trust your ability to navigate complexities with grace.

For more call **0905 789 4171**
(80p/min + network access charge)

GEMINI MAY 22-JUNE 21

A business event or social gathering you expected to be interesting ends up being the opposite. People who said they would attend won't show up. Overall it will feel like a waste of time. The disappointment may linger, casting a shadow on your plans for the day ahead. Use this moment to work on recalibrating your expectations.

For more call **0905 789 4173**
(80p/min + network access charge)

LEO JULY 24-AUG 23

If you've been giving someone advice on a romantic or financial issue, the situation has reversed. Just be cautious about who you confide in. Approach someone who has been helpful to you in the past – their wisdom may lead you to a more profound understanding of your own choices and desires. Trust your instincts as you navigate this turning point.

For more call **0905 789 4175**
(80p/min + network access charge)

SAGITTARIUS NOV 23-DEC 21

Conversations will be enjoyable and rewarding. One person will offer guidance to another and you will appreciate this too. You could find yourself talking to someone who is much older or younger. They will take your advice seriously, and in turn, you may discover unexpected insights. Embrace this exchange as it may inspire deeper connections.

For more call **0905 789 4179**
(80p/min + network access charge)

TAURUS APRIL 21-MAY 21

You are more than capable of taking on additional responsibilities at home and at work. What's stopping you filling the gap left by a colleague who is leaving? Your experience will be to your advantage. At home, you feel motivated to complete unfinished tasks, and your determination is inspiring those around you. Enjoy this opportunity.

For more call **0905 789 4172**
(80p/min + network access charge)

CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 23

Some personal issues occupy your thoughts and this makes it hard for you to concentrate. This could lead you to avoid social interactions and cancel arrangements. Later, you will find out that a close friend has been making plans they hope you will agree to. It might bring a refreshing change that could lift your spirits.

For more call **0905 789 4174**
(80p/min + network access charge)

VIRGO AUG 24-SEPT 23

A friend or neighbour has been depending on you lately. It could be a shared financial issue that is now causing problems. Those who know you well recognise your talent for managing money so don't be surprised when they seek your guidance. As you navigate this situation, remember your insights could also unlock new avenues.

For more call **0905 789 4176**
(80p/min + network access charge)

CAPRICORN DEC 22-JAN 20

The last thing you want to do is risk your hard-earned savings and anything you have spent time creating and building. When a high-risk investment or business idea is put to you, don't get swept up in other people's enthusiasm. Remind them of the big risk. Trust your instincts. Protecting your assets is not just sensible, it's a testament to your dedication.

For more call **0905 789 4180**
(80p/min + network access charge)

LIBRA SEPT 24-OCT 23

You're in tune with the moods of those around you. Sales and any public service tasks are likely to go smoothly. People are paying attention to you as you respond in a way that meets their expectations. Be prepared for lengthy discussions with a boss or someone in authority. Showcase your insights as your ability to connect deeply may open new doors.

For more call **0905 789 4177**
(80p/min + network access charge)

AQUARIUS JAN 21-FEB 19

The main focus now is on financial interests and everyday expenses. This could mean anything from buying and replacing items, selling possessions you no longer use to receiving a cash gift. Donating to charity or offering to help a cause is another option. This energy could lead to unexpected benefits, both for you and those around you.

For more call **0905 789 4181**
(80p/min + network access charge)

SCORPIO OCT 24-NOV 22

It's not going to be easy getting authority figures to see things your way. People in positions of power seem unwilling to listen. You would like to have your ideas acknowledged but is it worth the effort? People will want you to justify your actions, making you feel as if you have got it wrong. Remaining true to your vision could lead to a shift in perspective.

For more call **0905 789 4178**
(80p/min + network access charge)

PISCES FEB 20-MARCH 20

You're paying more attention than usual to finances. With you feeling so sensible, this is your chance to sort out money matters. Take care of bills. Even if you can't pay them all, you can start. Decide what should be a priority and which can wait. Take comfort in knowing each small step you take can lead to more stability, creating a solid foundation for future ventures.

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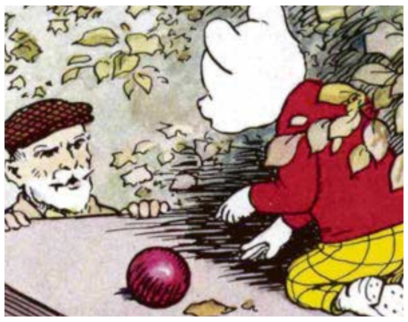
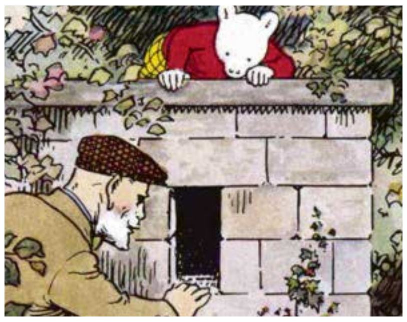
NUTWOOD TALES

RUPERT AND THE SQUIRE No.34



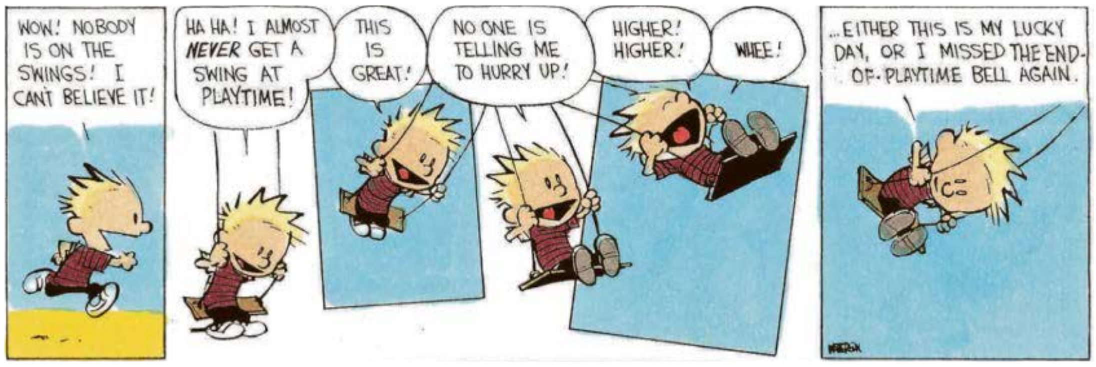
The Squire, on tip-toe, starts and stares,
"I've guessed what's gone on!" he declares.

He peers in through the window slit,
Then gives a gasp, "That's it! That's it!"

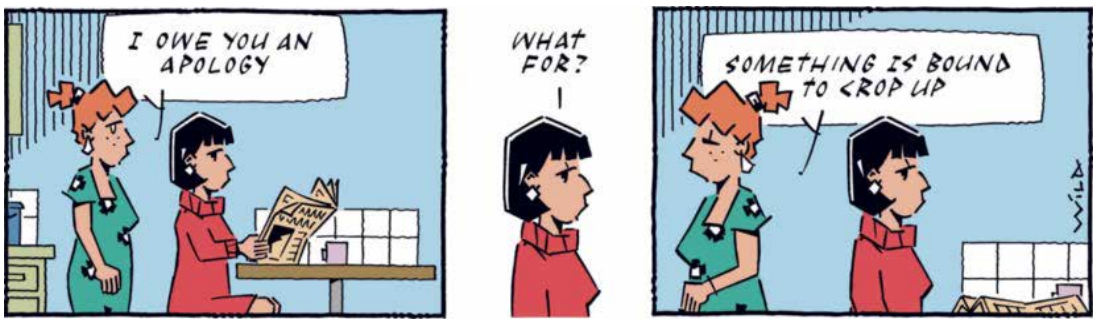


"Look here," says Rupert as the Squire's head appears above the roof. "We lost Bill's cricket ball. Beppo must have found it and brought it up. It's still here." The Squire hardly seems to be listening. "This could be the solution to everything,"he mutters. "If so, it's serious!" "What, this cricket ball?" queries Rupert. "No, no, no. Not that – this!" whispers the Squire, bending down and peering keenly into the little window. Then he starts back with a gasp.

CALVIN AND HOBBES
BILL WATTERSON


WOW! NOBODY IS ON THE SWINGS! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
HA HA! I ALMOST NEVER GET A SWING AT PLAYTIME!
THIS IS GREAT!
NO ONE IS TELLING ME TO HURRY UP!
HIGHER! HIGHER!
WHEE!
...EITHER THIS IS MY LUCKY DAY, OR I MISSED THE END-OF-PLAYTIME BELL AGAIN.
WATTERSON

FAITH, HOPE AND SUE
LISA WILD


I OWE YOU AN APOLOGY
WHAT FOR?
SOMETHING IS BOUND TO CROP UP
WILD

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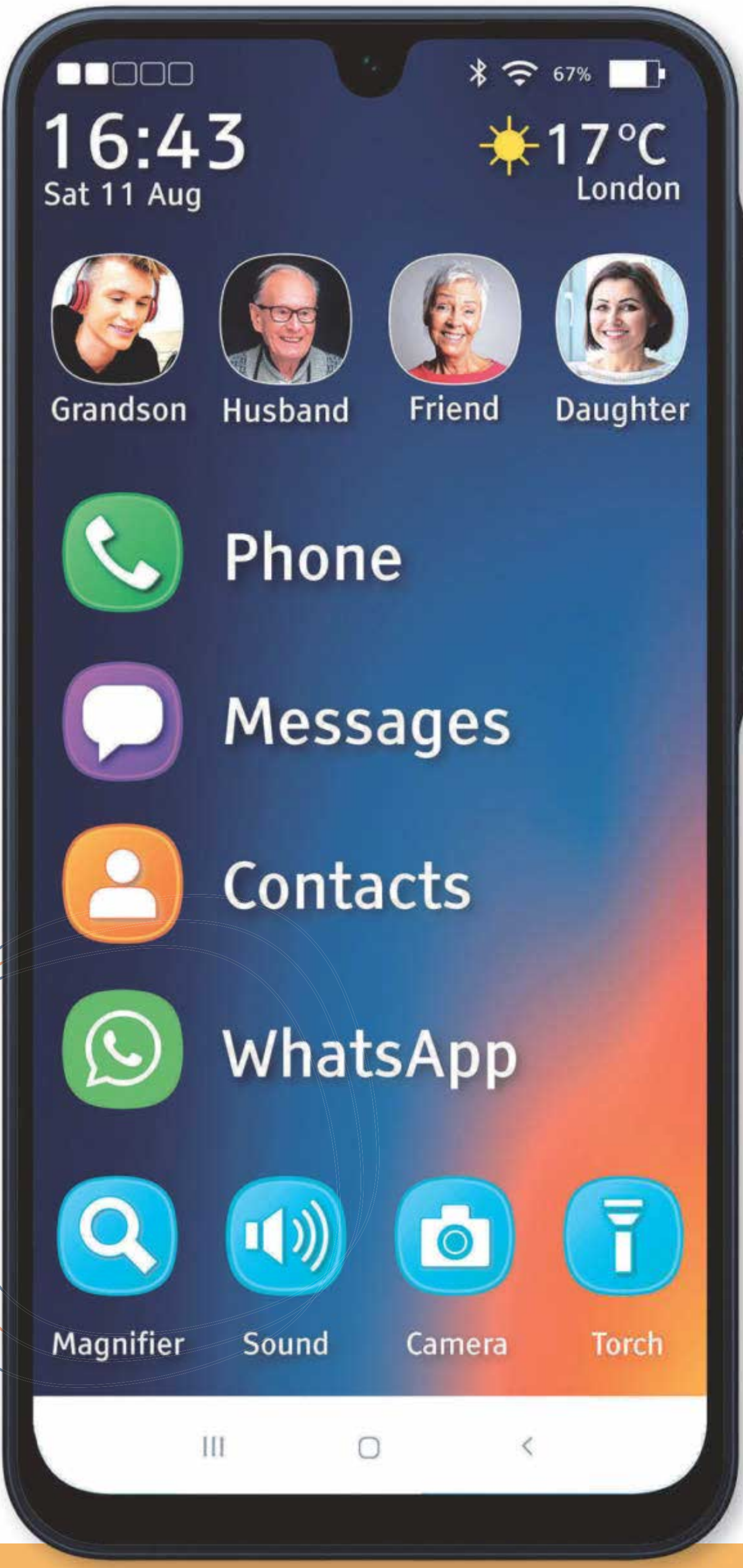

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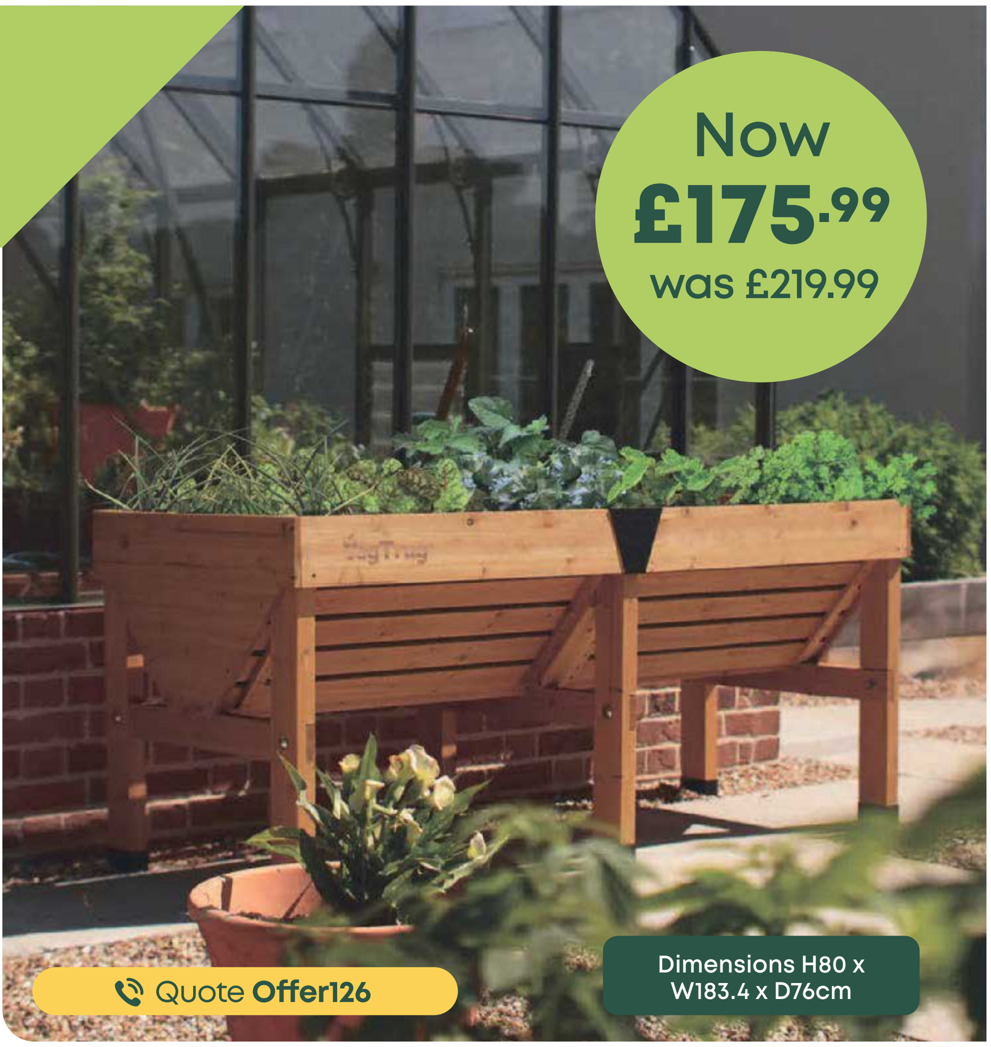

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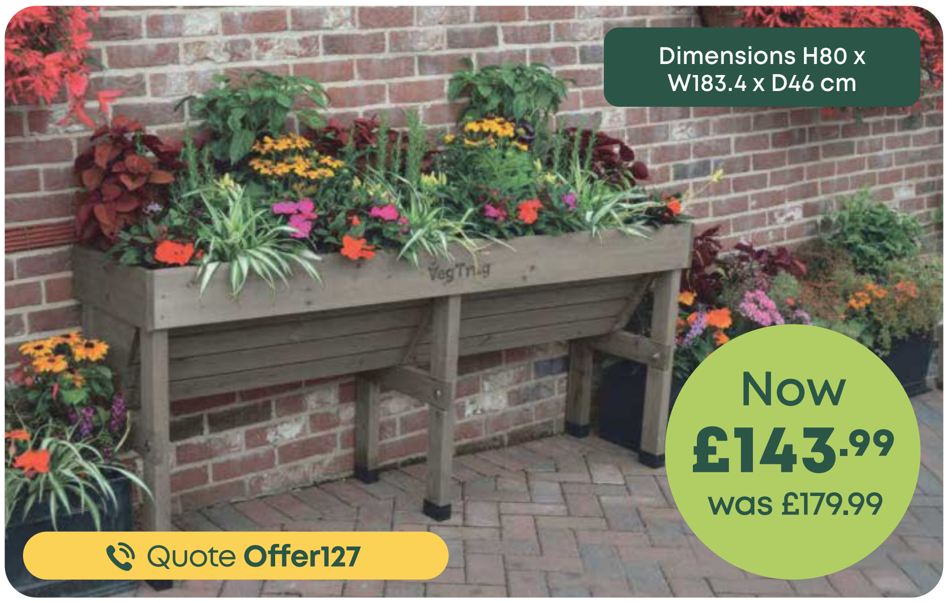

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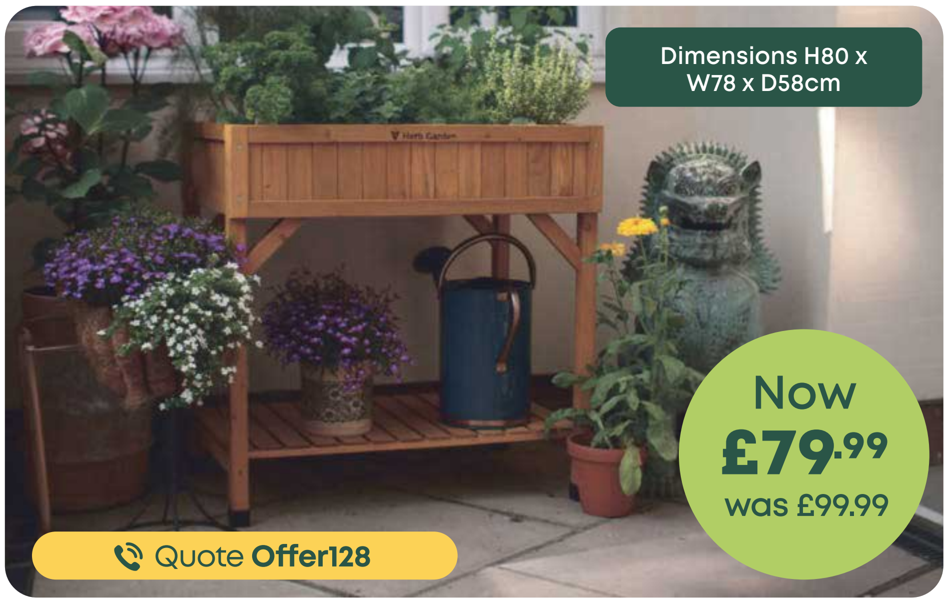

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ROCKETT READY FOR LIFT-OFF

National hero makes first step to defend his title

By **Jon Lees**

GRAND NATIONAL winner Nick Rockett is set to make his first appearance of the season tomorrow so that he can qualify to defend his crown.

Without a race since last season's victory under Patrick Mullins at Aintree, the nine-year-old must run before March 24 to meet the eligibility conditions of having run over fences at least once in the season.

Provided he finishes in the first four in the five runner 3m2f Bluegrass Racehorse Cube Chase at Down Royal, which also features National entrants Gerri Colombe and Perceval Legallois, he will have secured his place at the start on April 11.

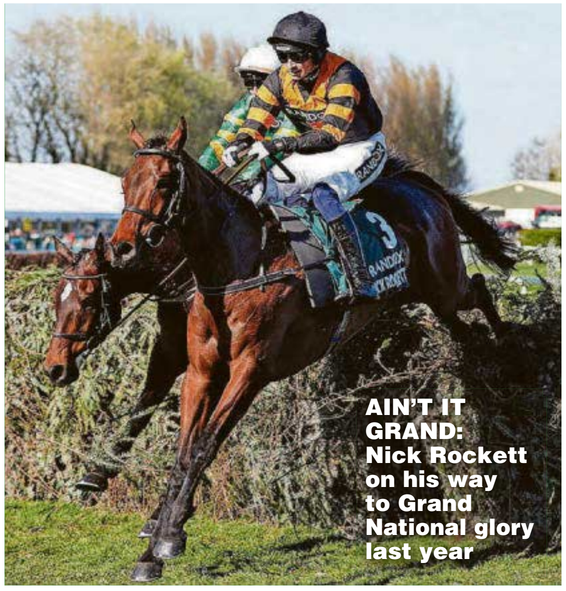
The Dan Skelton-trained mare Panic Attack has enhanced her chances of making the Grand National line-up with her third place in the Mares' Chase at the Cheltenham Festival, the trainer said yesterday.

Skelton said: "I thought she ran a beautiful Grand National trial over two and a half miles. She couldn't quite win on decent ground. You'd love to see her jumping round Aintree wouldn't you? The dream is alive."

She could be joined by Haiti Couleurs who was pulled up after making a lot of the running in Friday's Cheltenham Gold Cup.

Trainer Rebecca Curtis said: "It was quick ground. There was no good to soft in it and he was always maybe going slightly out of his comfort zone.

"I'd be keen to go to the Grand National with him. He's a marathon horse. If he seems fresh and well we definitely won't rule it out."



AIN'T IT GRAND: Nick Rockett on his way to Grand National glory last year

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THE SCOUT

2.15 ESCORT'KHEOPS
2.45 Alto Alto
3.15 Risk It All
3.45 A Tickatickatiming
4.15 Illogical Logic
4.45 ELIZA DOLITTLE (nb)
5.15 Secret Des Lune

JACKPOT: www.totepoolliveinfo.com

2.15 MORE RADIO MAIDEN HURDLE (GBB RACE)

£5,446 (Class 4)2m 4f 116yds (8 declared)

1	723342	● **ESCORT'KHEOPS (26)** L Horsfall 6 11-7	**K Brogan**	★117
2	2-7P	**IDAHO FIRE (60)** P Nicholls 5 11-7	**H Cobden**	–
3	F-P	**LUNAR MORNING (162)** M Comley 5 11-7	**D Bass**	–
4	3-35	**OUR AMIGO (118)** N Gifford 6 11-7	**J M Davies**	107
5	43263	**WEST ALONG (22)** R Rowe 6 11-7	**T Cannon**	85
6	LOL	**APPROACHING STORM (42)** N Gifford 5 11-0	**Tabitha Worsley(3)**	–
7	P-U413	**LOLA DE MAGNY (49)** A Irvine 5 11-0	**C Quinn**	98
8	1-4	**VISCOUNTESS NELSON (84) (S)** N Henderson 6 11-0	**N De Boinville**	–

CHEEK PIECES: No. 3.

SP FORECAST: 6-4 Viscountess Nelson, 13-8 Escort'kheops, 4 Our Amigo, 10 Idaho Fire, 25 Lola De Magny, West Along, 100 Lunar Morning, 150 Others.

2.45 HANDICAP CHASE (GBB RACE)

£5,809 (4) 2m 219yds (5)

1	78-2LP3	**PARK ANNONCIADE (89) (T)** S Humphrey 8 12-0	**R McLernon**	113
2	2-1P124	**DELPOTRO (125) (D)** C Longsdon 6 12-0	**D Bass**	110
3	14-LL2L	● **ALTO ALTO (21) (C&D)** C Gordon 9 11-13	**F Gordon**	★114
4	633361	**KOOL KID (21)** J Tizzard 6 11-13	**B J Powell**	–
5	PF1L-6P	**ANGEL'S DREAM (64)** G & J Moore 8 10-2	**C Quinn**	81

VISOR: No. 3 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 2 CHEEK PIECES: No. 5 HOOD: No. 2.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 3, 5, 2, 4.

SP FORECAST: 13-8 Kool Kid, 5-2 Park Annonciade, 5 Alto Alto, 6 Angel's Dream, 13-2 Delpotro.

3.15 NOVICES' HANDICAP HURDLE

£3,829 (5) 1m 7f 195yds (9)

1	L6-L202	● **RISK IT ALL (31)** G & J Moore 5 12-0	**F Mitchell(3)**	★102
2	33P624	**KILL THE GROOVE (35)** K Jewell 6 11-12	**T Cannon**	101
3	575	**MAJOR MAJOR (21)** Cynthia Woods 6 11-6	**J Best**	94
4	L3L-453	**KINGSTON BRESIL (240)** Mrs L Hill 6 11-4	**C Maggs(3)**	100
5	3-6P6P3	**MY LOVELY HORSE (21)** D Bridgwater 6 10-13	**B J Powell**	93
6	LLL	**FOINIX (F69)** J & S Best 6 10-13	**R McLernon**	77
7	08P	**JACQUETTA (39)** G & J Moore 5 10-12	**C Quinn**	85
8	L4LLU-	**CHARLES MORIN (F19)** P Phelan 5 10-11	**Sean Houlihan**	–
9	LLPL	**SOMKIYR (21)** A Irvine 5 10-8	**P Armson(3)**	89

TONGUE STRAP: No. 2 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 2, 5.

SP FORECAST: 6-4 Risk It All, 4 Kingston Bresil, 6 Kill The Groove, 7 Charles Morin, 8 Jacquetta, 16 My Lovely Horse, Somkiyr, Foinix, 25 Major Major.

3.45 MARES' HANDICAP HURDLE

£5,281 (4) 2m 1f 169yds (4)

1	2-11234	**AL SAYAH (149)** N Mulholland 6 12-0	**R McLernon**	116
2	412-3L4	**DRAMATIC ENCORE (40)** Harry Derham 6 11-9	**Paul O'Brien**	114
3	3/18-543	**LA MARQUISE (18) (F)** J Snowden 6 11-7	**J A Anderson(3)**	117
4	4834-2L	● **A TICKATICKATIMING (21) (C)** Miss S West 8 10-4	**M Goldstein**	★119

CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 2, 3.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 3.

SP FORECAST: 7-4 La Marquise, 9-4 Al Sayah, Dramatic Encore, 8 A Tickatickatiming.

4.15 NHSTALLIONS.CO.UK HANDICAP CHASE

£4,225 (5) 3m 1f 157yds (7)

1	1F1312	**FERRET JEETER (7)** A Honeyball 9 12-0	**C Bament(7)**	–
2	131-2L2	**WEST ORCHARD (19) (C)** J Tizzard 9 11-13	**B J Powell**	102
3	B/L43-3L	**INEDIT DE MEE (64)** T Lawes 8 11-10	**K Brogan**	101
4	3PP223	● **ILLOGICAL LOGIC (45) (D) (T)** Christian Williams 8 11-6	**J Tudor**	101
5	141L4L	**SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL (32)** J Tickle 11 10-10	**Taylor Fisher**	★103
6	3-PP4P1	**IMPERIAL PRIDE (15)** David Dennis 10 10-9	**T Bellamy**	97
7	8/7P1P-U	**BALLYGELLY (138)** Mrs E Bishop 8 10-4	**L Harrison**	99

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 3, 6, 7 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 2, 3, 6 HOOD: No. 7.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 7, 1, 5.

SP FORECAST: 2 Imperial Pride, 11-4 West Orchard, 3 Ferret Jeeter, 13-2 Illogical Logic, 14 Ballygelly, Inedit De Mee, 25 School For Scandal.

4.45 KALM CLUB HANDICAP HURDLE

£3,829 (5) 2m 4f 116yds (7)

1	426345	**GHASHAM (50) (D)** D Skelton 7 12-0	**Harry Atkins(7)**	100
2	P7838P	**BREAD AND BUTTER (53) (D)** Cynthia Woods 11 11-9	**J Best**	102
3	3-25561	**TARITINO (7)** J Tickle 6 11-2	**Taylor Fisher**	★103
4	61-5L21	● **ELIZA DOLITTLE (21) (C&D)** N Gifford 8 11-1	**Tabitha Worsley(3)**	98
5	3P1132	**JUNIOR DES MOTTES (2) (C,F)** Nick Scholfield 7 10-13	**J Quinlan**	99
6	77L5-LL	**KAP DE TRIOMPHE (117) (T)** Christian Williams 6 10-12	**J Tudor**	86
7	5L56	**EPHYRA (49)** A Irvine 5 10-10	**C Quinn**	101

TONGUE STRAP: No. 2 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 5, 6.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 2, 4, 5, 6.

SP FORECAST: 15-8 Taritino, 5-2 Eliza Dolittle, 11-4 Junior Des Mottes, 6 Ghasham, 20 Ephyra, 25 Kap De Triomphe, 33 Bread And Butter.

5.15 OPEN NH FLAT RACE (GBB RACE)

£2,722 (5) 2m 1f 169yds (5)

1	F-122	**DOUBLE THE DANCE (80)** G & J Moore 5 11-5	**C Quinn**	★111
2	25	**SOLDIER POET (75)** N Gifford 5 11-5	**J M Davies**	100
3		**GETMYFRIEND** D Skelton 5 10-12	**K Woods**	–
4		**LUNA MARQUESA** J Tizzard 5 10-12	**B J Powell**	–
5	22	● **SECRET DES LUNE (46)** Ben Clarke 5 10-12	**S Twiston-Davies**	109

SP FORECAST: 2 Secret Des Lune, 9-4 Double The Dance, 4 Getmyfriend, Luna Marquesa, 12 Soldier Poet.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Good to Soft. Left Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2021-26):** Tom Cannon 25% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2021-26):** C Gordon 21% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 2.15 Lunar Morning (cheek pieces), 3.15 Kill The Groove (cheek pieces, tongue strap), My Lovely Horse (cheek pieces), 4.15 Inedit De Mee (cheek pieces, tongue strap). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 2.45 Alto Alto(hcp ch). 4.15 Ferret Jeeter(hcp hdl). 4.45 Junior Des Mottes(hcp hdl). 5.15 Double The Dance. **LONGEST TRAVELLER: Park Annonciade** (2.45) 266 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** No Qualifiers.

FFOS LAS SKYSPORTSRACING

THE SCOUT

2.30 Rest Is The Best
3.00 Boston Joe
3.30 Whiskey Yankee
4.00 Alfie's Princess
4.30 Jukebox Fury
5.00 Port And Brandy

2.30 CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' MARES' HCAP HURDLE

£3,248 (Class 5) 2m 4f (6 declared)

1	24-L164	**HELLFIRE PRINCESS (28) (C,D)** Kerry Lee 9 12-0	**B Macey**	★101
2	744U	**MAN MAID (19)** H Dickin 5 11-13	**C Pritchard**	89
3	11-5312	**QUEEN OF STEEL (26) (C&D) (S)** F O'Brien 6 11-7	**Fern O'Brien(3)**	96
4	07642	● **REST IS THE BEST (23)** H Dickin 5 10-12	**Murray Dodd(3)**	99
5	4-50L47	**NEEPS AND TATTIES (9)** R Phillips 7 10-12	**F Lambert**	96
6	4L886	**HALF PINT DAISY (23)** C Boultbee-Brooks 7 10-2	**N Fox**	86

CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 3, 4 HOOD: No. 5.

SP FORECAST: 11-8 Queen Of Steel, 11-4 Rest Is The Best, 5 Man Maid, 15-2 Hellfire Princess, 10 Neeps And Tatties, 14 Half Pint Daisy.

3.00 GOOD LUCK BARRY MURPHY HCAP CHASE

£3,248 (5) 2m 3f 83yds (7)

1	4-142U6	**WALKINTHEWOODS (19)** Mrs C Williams 9 12-0	**O Radford(7)**	98
2	5L2-33P	● **BOSTON JOE (48) (C)** R Curtis 10 11-13	**B R Jones**	★103
3	333-62P	**BENIGNITAS (33)** Gordon Treacy 9 11-12	**R Corcoran(7)**	96
4	521112	**EL ROJO GRANDE (24) (C)** Katy Price 9 11-6	**Shane Quinlan(3)**	97
5	2U8234	**HENRY BOX BROWN (92)** Mrs C Williams 9 11-2	**E Collier(5)**	100
6	4-96442	**PORT OR STARBOARD (19)** B J Llewellyn 9 11-0	**Lee Edwards**	96
7	PP4-F	**FERANDO (193)** B T Murphy (IRE) 6 10-9	**C Pritchard(3)**	–

TONGUE STRAP: No. 7 CHEEK PIECES: No. 6.

SP FORECAST: 11-8 El Rojo Grande, 4 Port Or Starboard, 5 Boston Joe, 13-2 Henry Box Brown, 10 Benignitas, Walkinthewoods, 20 Ferando.

3.30 CELTIC SUBARU NOVICES' HURDLE

£5,446 (4) 2m 4f (4)

1	7/2-521L	**LON CHANEY (30)** O Murphy 6 11-12	**S Bowen**	★122
2	2-15	● **WHISKEY YANKEE (30)** S Thomas 5 11-12	**D Johnston**	120
3	6F22-L6	**MAKINBECON (15)** B T Murphy (IRE) 6 11-5	**S Fenelon(5)**	75
4	U-3	**SOLDIER FOR GLORY (24)** R Curtis 6 11-5	**B R Jones**	112

TONGUE STRAP: No. 2.

SP FORECAST: 5-6 Whiskey Yankee, 13-8 Lon Chaney, 13-2 Soldier For Glory, 33 Makinbecon.

4.00 'WELSH GOLD CUP' HANDICAP CHASE

£9,242 (3) 2m 7f 177yds (9)

1	517L1/8	**LOUGHDERG ROCCO (23)** O Murphy 10 12-0	**S Bowen**	101
2	56-UL7L	**SAINT PALAIS (27) (D)** R Bandey 9 11-12	**H Bannister**	127
3	234-135	**FORTUNATE MAN (23)** J & A O'Neill 7 11-12	**Jonjo O'Neill Jr**	136
4	12/1-516	**BIG CITY ROLLER (17)** C Longsdon 8 11-10	**Lilly Pinchin**	131
5	532/2-17	● **ALFIE'S PRINCESS (59)** S Thomas 9 11-7	**D Johnston**	★137
6	PP-P2PF	**KARUMA GREY (24) (C)** B T Murphy (IRE) 8 10-13	**S Fenelon(5)**	133
7	11519U	**PUDDLESINTHEPARK (101) (C&D)** Mrs C Williams 8 10-10	**C Ring**	132
8	482/3F2	**GENIETOILE (48)** R Curtis 8 10-9	**B R Jones**	132
9	4P4312	**FACE D'MUSIC (15)** Katy Price 7 10-7	**Shane Quinlan(3)**	132

BLINKERS: No. 9 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 3, 5 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 3, 4.

SP FORECAST: 7-2 Fortunate Man, 4 Face d'Music, 9-2 Genietoile, 6 Alfie's Princess, 7 Big City Roller, 8 Loughderg Rocco, 10 Puddlesinthepark, 12 Others.

4.30 BLACKMORES HANDICAP HURDLE

£4,066 (4) 2m 4f (8)

1	072111	**EL GAVILAN (24) (C&D)** C Boultbee-Brooks 5 12-1	**R Patrick**	109
2	26-24P4	**DOUBLE CLICK (24) (C&D)** J Snowden 8 12-0	**G Sheehan**	★111
3	P0/5011-	● **JUKEBOX FURY (363) (F)** N Henderson 7 11-11	**J Bowen**	108
4	621-77P	**CLOSE COMBAT (27)** N Hawke 5 11-10	**B Carver**	105
5	4-2432	**UP TO TRIX (24)** O Murphy 6 11-10	**S Bowen**	109
6	U5-1543	**SIOUX FALLS (40)** Mrs C Williams 6 11-6	**C Ring**	110
7	32-P864	**GUSTAPOF (27)** R Curtis 5 11-6	**B R Jones**	109
8	3353L6	**JACK'S JURY (15)** B T Murphy (IRE) 6 10-9	**C Pritchard(3)**	108

BLINKERS: 2 TONGUE STRAP: 1, 8 CHEEK PIECES: 1, 8 HOOD: 7.

SP FORECAST: 3 El Gavilan, 10-3 Jukebox Fury, Up To Trix, 6 Sioux Falls, 10 Double Click, Gustapof, 14 Close Combat, 16 Jack's Jury.

5.00 MARES' OPEN MAIDEN NH FLAT RACE

£2,376 (5) 1m 7f 182yds (6)

1	7	**ATLANTIC BLUE (37)** H Daly 5 11-2	**S Sheppard**	71
2	2-33	**DIAMOND WHITE (60)** J & A O'Neill 5 11-2	**Jonjo O'Neill Jr**	101
3	21	**GALATRONA (37)** C Longsdon 5 11-2	**J J Burke**	–
4	12	**JOHNNY'S BELLE (37)** B T Murphy (IRE) 6 11-2	**J Bowen**	–
5		**MIRABELLO** J Snowden 5 11-2	**G Sheehan**	–
6	2-83123	● **PORT AND BRANDY (37)** M Bowen 6 11-2	**S Bowen**	★103

SP FORECAST: 5-2 Diamond White, 11-4 Port And Brandy, 3 Galatrona, 11-2 Mirabello, 8 Johnny's Belle, 16 Atlantic Blue.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Soft. Left Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2021-26):** Sean Bowen 22% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2021-26):** O Murphy 26% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 4.30 Jack's Jury (cheek pieces, tongue strap). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 2.30 Queen Of Steel(hcp hdl). 3.00 El Rojo Grande(hcp ch). 4.00 Face d'Music(hcp ch), Fortunate Man(hcp ch). **LONGEST TRAVELLER: Ferando** (3.00), **Makinbecon** (3.30), **Karuma Grey** (4.00), **Jack's Jury** (4.30), **Johnny's Belle** (5.00) Ireland; **Benignitas** (3.00) 187 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** 3.00 **Ferando** from Mrs A Thorpe to B T Murphy, **Henry Box Brown** from E Williams to Mrs C Williams, **Walkinthewoods** from E Williams to Mrs C Williams. 3.30 **Makinbecon** from J & R Flint to B T Murphy. 4.00 **Karuma Grey** from D Hamer to B T Murphy, **Puddlesinthepark** from E Williams to Mrs C Williams. 4.30 **Jack's Jury** from J & R Flint to B T Murphy, **Sioux Falls** from E Williams to Mrs C Williams. 5.00 **Galatrona** from C Bowe in Ireland to C Longsdon, **Johnny's Belle** from Brian Lawless to B T Murphy.

RESULTS

CHEPSTOW: Soft-good to soft in places

2.10—FERN GULLY (H Cobden, 2-1 2nd fav) 1; Eremenko (4-6 fav) 2; Polkaface (16-1) 3. 10 ran. 11l, 30l. (E Lavelle). Tote: £3.00; pl £1.10, £1.10, £3.00. exacta: £5.00. trifecta: £18.90. CSF: £4.11. Non-runner: Dancing Sky.

2.45—BOULTYDOOLIN (B R Jones, 8-11 fav) 1; Lil Fortune (7-1) 2; Island Bridge (2-1 2nd fav) 3. 7 ran. 8½l, nk. (R Curtis). Tote: £1.73; pl £2.00, £1.30. exacta: £6.70. trifecta: £13.00. CSF: £7.18. Non-runner: Dante's Rocco.

3.20—EXPRESS SURPRISE (R Patrick, 11-4 fav) 1; Fern Hill (22-1) 2; Handin Manypockets (16-1) 3. H'cap 11 ran. 1l, 17l. (C Boultbee-Brooks). Tote: £3.75; pl £1.50, £5.80, £4.20. exacta: £81.00. tricast: £861.18. trifecta: £1915.10. CSF: £64.14. Non-runner: Captain Boudet.

3.55—ANALIESE (C Deutsch, 7-4 fav) 1; Siog Geal (5-2 2nd fav) 2; Cast's Tasha (11-1) 3. H'cap 9 ran. ¾l, 4l. (Mrs M Rowley). Tote: £2.75; pl £1.10, £1.40, £3.40. exacta: £8.50. tricast: £36.27. trifecta: £81.90. CSF: £7.07.

4.30—BLACK HAWK EAGLE (C O'Farrell, 11-10 fav) 1; Milan Tino (13-8 2nd fav) 2; Blacksamssenorita (3-1) 3. H'cap 3 ran. 2¼l, 37l. (Kerry Lee). Tote: £2.10; exacta: £3.50. trifecta: £3.10. CSF: £3.34. Non-runners: Falco Des Pins, The Winslow Boy.

5.05—JAIPALETEMPS (R Corcoran, 4-1) 1; Risk De Pluie (10-11 fav) 2; Ballybreeze (12-1) 3. H'cap 5 ran. 3¾l, 17l. (D Pipe). Tote: £5.00; pl £2.00, £1.10. exacta: £9.80. trifecta: £29.40. CSF: £8.68. Non-runners: Kalista Love, My Friend Sean.

5.40—COOL CUSTOMER (Fern O'Brien, 2-1 2nd fav) 1; Moments Away (5-1) 2; Snufflepot (12-1) 3. 8 ran. 1¾l, 1¼l. (F O'Brien; 6-4 fav L'aurige). Tote: £3.00; pl £1.20, £1.70, £2.50. exacta: £10.70. trifecta: £54.50. CSF: £13.05. Non-runners: Just For Dad, Law Of The Jungle.

Placepot: £9.80
(Race 1) 4, 3, 8; (2) 2, 7; (3) 6, 3, 5; (4) 4, 2, 8; (5) 1; (6) 2, 1;
Quadpot: £6.40

CURRAGH: Heavy

1.25—RULER'S CONTROL (L T McAteer, 15-2) 1; Force Noir (5-6 fav) 2; Bull Shark (6-1) 3. 7 ran. hd, 3¼l. (Jack Foley). Tote: €9.70; pl €3.20, €1.30. exacta: €23.00. trifecta: €95.10. CSF: €14.79. Non-runners: Ballinea Star, What A Girl Wants.

2.00—BREAKING DAWN (C T Keane, 2-1 fav) 1; Keogie (16-1) 2; Fate's Gambit (8-1) 3; Dreoilin (80-1) 4. 16 ran. 2½l, 4½l, 1l. (M O'Callaghan). Tote: €3.10; pl €1.40, €5.30, €2.70. exacta: €48.00. trifecta: €463.00. CSF: €41.78. Non-runner: Windsor Lily.

2.35—SMOKE THEM OUT (Sadhbh Tormey, 8-1) 1; Tai Tam Bay (9-4 fav) 2; Mickey The Steel (6-1 2nd fav) 3. H'cap 12 ran. nk, 1¼l. (T G McCourt). Tote: €9.50; pl €2.80, €1.60, €1.40. exacta: €34.60. tricast: €126.25. trifecta: €297.00. CSF: €27.80.

3.10—DMANIAC (W M Lordan, 7-2 jt fav) 1; Unique Journey (9-2) 2; Stag Night (4-1) 3. H'cap 9 ran. 3¼l, 1½l. (M Hassett; 7-2 jtfav Back Down Under). Tote: €4.50; pl €1.60, €1.80, €1.30. exacta: €16.00. tricast: €67.51. trifecta: €44.90. CSF: €20.40.

3.45—POLLENCA (A J Slattery, 10-1) 1; Signora (evens fav) 2; Feel The Love (7-2 2nd fav) 3. 11 ran. 1¾l, 3½l. (A Slattery). Tote: €15.40; pl €2.00, €1.10, €1.50. exacta: €28.40. trifecta: €111.80. CSF: €21.67.

4.20—RIBEE (D McDonogh, 20-1) 1; Eastwatch (11-1) 2; Syzygy (16-1) 3; Far From Dandy (28-1) 4. H'cap 25 ran. 1½l, 4½l, hd. (M Mulvany; 7-2 fav Akecheta). Tote: €24.70; pl €5.20, €3.70, €4.40, €5.70. exacta: €546.30. tricast: €3728.02. trifecta: €2896.50. CSF: €242.65. Non-runner: Sea Eagle.

4.55—VICTORY TIP (W J Lee, 16-1) 1; Joe Cool (66-1) 2; Shaftesbury Avenue (7-1) 3; Hassaniya (15-2) 4. 23 ran. 1¼l, 3¾l, 1l. (H De Bromhead). Tote: €20.40; pl €4.50, €9.90, €3.20. exacta: €3464.80. trifecta: Not won. CSF: €633.77. Non-runners: Notahairoutofplace, Zelani.Zelani| Rule 4 applies to All Bets, deduct 20p in the pound

5.30—ELECTRIC BEAUTY (Jamie Powell, 20-1) 1; Lough Leane (25-1) 2; Satono Chevalier (33-1) 3; Lady Mary Heath (66-1) 4. H'cap 26 ran. 2½l, ¾l, ½l. (M Mulvany; 9-2 fav Kakori). Tote: €25.00; pl €5.30, €8.00, €8.70, €13.60. exacta: €1252.10. tricast: €15294.32. trifecta: Not won. CSF: €465.74. Non-runners: Hexagonal, Master Garvey, Merepark.

Placepot: €63.40
(Race 1) 7, 3; (2) 4, 10, 8; (3) 3, 10, 7; (4) 9, 1, 4; (5) 9, 11, 5; (6) 12, 4, 25, 11;

MARKET RASEN: Good to soft-soft in places on chase course

1.47—ROCCONTIER (N De Boinville, 8-13 fav) 1; Guts And Glory (16-5 2nd fav) 2; Cotton Socks (6-1) 3. 6 ran. 18l, 8½l. (N Henderson). Tote: £1.62; pl £1.10, £1.40. exacta: £3.30. trifecta: £7.10. CSF: £2.97.

2.22—THE DOG THIEF (J Andrews, 11-4 2nd fav) 1; Plains Drifter (10-11 fav) 2; Tobyshill (10-3) 3. 8 ran. 1l, ½l. (T Ellis). Tote: £4.00; pl £1.10, £1.10, £1.10. exacta: £7.00. trifecta: £12.60. CSF: £6.27.

2.57—ICARE COLOMBE (J J Burke, 11-4 fav) 1; Dixie Cowboy (9-1) 2; Beat The Edge (25-1) 3. H'cap 7 ran. 5l, hd. (F O'Brien). Tote: £3.75; pl £2.10, £4.30. exacta: £24.90. trifecta: £198.10. CSF: £26.42.

3.32—ROSE'S DART (J Hamilton, 14-1) 1; Natus Vincere (4-6 fav) 2; Livano Bello (4-1) 3. H'cap 5 ran. 1¼l, ½l. (M & D Easterby). Tote: £15.40; pl £3.90, £1.10. exacta: £25.10. trifecta: £72.00. CSF: £25.79.

4.07—ESCAPOLOGIST (J J Burke, 10-3 2nd fav) 1; Top Guy (7-1) 2; Seahouses (8-1) 3. H'cap 6 ran. 1½l, 3½l. (James Owen; 15-8 fav Aire Spray). Tote: £4.34; pl £2.10, £2.80. exacta: £25.40. trifecta: £89.90. CSF: £25.03. Non-runner: Keppel Queen.

4.42—OVERABOTTLEOFRED (G Sheehan, 5-4 fav) 1; Malaita (4-1) 2; Queens Wish (5-2 2nd fav) 3. H'cap 4 ran. 17l, 27l. (T R Gretton). Tote: £2.25; exacta: £5.50. trifecta: £9.50. CSF: £6.32.

5.17—TRUST HOUSE (S Bowen, evens fav) 1; Kalkaroo (5-2 2nd fav) 2; Bunker Bay (11-1) 3. H'cap 6 ran. 4¼l, 4¼l. (O Murphy). Tote: £2.00; pl £1.10, £1.50. exacta: £4.80. trifecta: £20.10. CSF: £4.20.

Jackpot: £18,290.70
Placepot: £42.00
(Race 1) 2, 5; (2) 5, 3, 7; (3) 2, 4; (4) 1, 3; (5) 2, 5; (6) 3;
Quadpot: £36.00

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WOLVERHAMPTON SSR

THE SCOUT

5.30 MAGNETUDE (nap)
6.00 Pure Theory
6.30 Ted Le Saux
7.00 Corniche Girl
7.30 Mumayaz
8.00 Kento
8.30 Crimson Rambler

5.30 BETMGM.CO.UK HANDICAP 3YO

£3,716 (Class 5)1m 4f 51yds (5 declared)

1	(5)	L43-	● **MAGNETUDE (116) (S)** James Owen 9-9	**L Morris**	66
2	(4)	7-44	**FIVE MOONS (27)** S & E Crisford 9-7	**J Mitchell**	73
3	(1)	525-	**GAELIC APPROACH (144)** C Johnston 9-5	**B Loughnane**	77
4	(3)	LL0-5	**MAGICIAN OF RIGA (13)** R Hannon 9-3	**S M Levey**	★78
5	(2)	LL5-	**FUZEYYA (184)** J O'Keeffe 8-10	**J Dace(5)**	73

CHEEK PIECES: No. 5.

SP FORECAST: 13-8 Magnetude, 5-2 Five Moons, 5 Magician of Riga, Gaelic Approach, 8 Fuzeyya.

2025: No corresponding race.

6.00 BETMGM CLASSIFIED STAKES

£3,140 (6) 1m 142yds (12)

1	(2)	5-73591	**LHEBAYEB (6) (C&D)** R J Price 8 9-13	**H Crouch**	53
2	(9)	06738L-	**ANGEL'S CALL (116) (C)** Mrs N Evans 5 9-9	**K O'Neill**	56
3	(6)	357LL-L	**BIZARRE LAW (17) (C)** M Herrington 7 9-9	**D Probert**	★62
4	(1)	66-537L	**DARLA'S SECRET (6)** S Spencer 4 9-9	**D Swift**	54
5	(11)	423226	**DESIDERATA (14) (C&D) (S)** T Faulkner 6 9-9	**B Loughnane**	56
6	(12)	L0LL/	**FULLOFBRIGHTIDEAS (945)** S Lycett 5 9-9	**G Mangan**	–
7	(5)	574-977	**NUTCRACKER (12)** A Carroll 4 9-9	**W Carson**	50
8	(10)	64-4546	● **PURE THEORY (18)** Stephanie Cassidy 4 9-9	**H Doyle**	58
9	(4)	08-6656	**RESILIENT LADY (21)** G Brown 4 9-9	**C Bishop**	52
10	(3)	6-54144	**SOLD OUT (10)** J Mackie 4 9-9	**S Donohoe**	59
11	(7)	3767L-4	**UNITED FORCE (60)** C Hobson 6 9-9	**M Ghiani**	45
12	(8)	0L0006/	**WILL BE KING (922)** J McConnell (IRE) 10 9-9	**L Morris**	–

TONGUE STRAP: No. 12 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 3, 4, 8, 9 HOOD: No. 1.

SP FORECAST: 9-4 Desiderata, 11-4 Lhebayeb, 4 Sold Out, 13-2 Pure Theory, 12 Nutcracker, 16 Resilient Lady, 20 United Force, 25 Angel's Call, Bizarre Law, Darla's Secret, 33 Others.

2025: Quick Away 4-9-9, Rossa Ryan 2-1 Fav (K Frost), drawn (4), 11 ran.

6.30 BETMGM'S GOLDEN GOALS NOVICE STAKES

£5,400 (4) 1m 142yds (6)

1	(1)	2-1	● **TED LE SAUX (65) (F)** A Balding 4 9-11	**O Murphy**	★87
2	(2)	L4	**BELLTONY (21)** R J Price 4 9-4	**F Marsh**	58
3	(3)	5-	**PORTER'S SONG (273)** E Bethell 4 9-4	**C Rodriguez**	–
4	(4)		**KEEP IT COOL (J52)** James Owen 6 8-13	**C Howarth(3)**	–
5	(5)	7	**LARAVIE (12)** James Owen 7 8-13	**Mason Paetel(5)**	64
6	(6)		**MOBBERLEY ROSE** R Varian 4 8-13	**J Mitchell**	–

SP FORECAST: 1-2 Ted Le Saux, 5-2 Mobberley Rose, 12 Porter's Song, 16 Laravie, 33 Keep It Cool, 66 Belltony.

2025: No corresponding race.

7.00 BET 10 GET 40 WITH BETMGM HCAP 3YO

£3,140 (6) 7f 36yds (12)

1	(10)	58621-4	**WATCHDOG (49)** R Fahey 9-9	**H Russell**	70
2	(5)	424-632	**GALILEO CHARM (13)** M Botti 9-9	**R Havlin**	69
3	(7)	4465-42	**SUP OF RED (17)** A Wintle 9-8	**F Marsh**	71
4	(12)	474-	**SAND LILY (241)** C Johnston 9-7	**B Loughnane**	65
5	(3)	246-236	● **CORNICHE GIRL (16)** R Hannon 9-7	**S M Levey**	70
6	(4)	506-	**LEGACY ROCK (192)** Dr R Newland & J Insole 9-7	**H Doyle**	71
7	(1)	724466-	**MY DAD TOM (76)** R Hannon 9-6	**T Cameron(5)**	69
8	(11)	7246-L7	**ATTENTION SEEKER (21)** B Ellison 9-5	**B Robinson**	★74
9	(9)	9-6L	**BAGGIE BOY (21)** A Carroll 9-2	**Jack Doughty**	65
10	(2)	L-04	**DORA VITA (31)** R Phillips 9-2	**S D Bowen**	65
11	(8)	6-47	**PINK DIAMOND GIRL (26)** Kieran Burke 9-0	**M Ghiani**	66
12	(6)	774-35	**SOUTH COAST STAR (11)** H Palmer 8-13	**D Probert**	72

CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 2, 7.

SP FORECAST: 3 Sup Of Red, 4 Watchdog, 11-2 Galileo Charm, 10 Corniche Girl, My Dad Tom, South Coast Star, Sand Lily, 12 Legacy Rock, 14 Others.

2025: Party Bear 9-5, Clifford Lee 13-2 (K R Burke), drawn (3), 10 ran.

7.30 MIDNITE ARE UPPING THE BETTING GAME HCAP

£3,716 (5) 6f 20yds (7)

1	(1)	111111	**BEAUZON (3) (C&D)** I Williams 7 9-13(4ex)	**C Bishop**	75
2	(4)	3-35746	● **MUMAYAZ (18) (C&D)** A Carroll 7 9-7	**Jack Doughty**	75
3	(6)	215129	**DIGITAL (11) (D)** R Carr 8 9-6	**JP Sullivan**	77
4	(7)	4-72406	**MART (13) (C,D)** D Cunha 5 9-4	**L Morris**	79
5	(5)	244223	**WATER OF LEITH (11) (C&D) (T)** J Goldie 8 9-2	**B Loughnane**	78
6	(2)	1L-2932	**TWILIGHT MADNESS (14) (C&D)** S Hodgson 8 9-2	**A Rawlinson**	77
7	(3)	1536-L6	**SILKY ROBIN (3) (D)** Brian Toomey 5 9-1	**S D Bowen**	★80

BLINKERS: No. 7 TONGUE STRAP: No. 2 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 3, 6.

SP FORECAST: 6-4 Beauzon, 3 Twilight Madness, 4 Water Of Leith, 8 Mart, 12 Mumayaz, 14 Digital, 20 Silky Robin.

2025: Whenthedealinsdone 7-9-6, George Wood 11-4 (R Teal), drawn (9), 8 ran.

8.00 JOIN THE MIDNITE MOVEMENT CLASSIFIED STAKES

£3,140 (6) 5f 21yds (9)

1	(8)	5LL774	**CAPTAIN KINSELLA (4) (D)** J Gallagher 4 9-9	**L Morris**	50
2	(4)	L234-68	**COCO HILL (27)** A Wintle 6 9-9	**F Marsh**	45
3	(6)	78-736L	**GLOBAL EFFORT (35) (C&D)** P McEntee 6 9-9	**Grace McEntee**	50
4	(3)	876-221	● **KENTO (9) (C&D)** A Carroll 5 9-9	**B Loughnane**	★58
5	(7)	573183	**KIPP KELLY (4) (C&D)** D Shaw 5 9-9	**Joanna Mason**	57
6	(2)	4-3L151	**LION RING (14) (C&D)** Andrew Martin 8 9-9	**R Kavanagh(5)**	55
7	(9)	00076-0	**MOONHALL LASS (62)** James Owen 4 9-9	**C Howarth(3)**	52
8	(1)	7L0/L-02	**PHIL'S DREAM (48) (D)** J McConnell (IRE) 6 9-9	**H Doyle**	55
9	(5)	433415	**SECOND COLLECTION (19) (C&D)** A Carroll 10 9-9	**Myla Coppins(7)**	56

VISOR: Nos. 3, 8 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 8 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 4, 7.

SP FORECAST: 2 Kento, 9-2 Lion Ring, 6 Phil's Dream, Second Collection, Kipp Kelly, 7 Captain Kinsella, 20 Moonhall Lass, 25 Coco Hill, Global Effort.

2025: My Turn Now 5-9-9, Paddy Bradley 12-1 (M Attwater), drawn (7), 10 ran.

8.30 BETMGM.CO.UK HANDICAP 3YO

£3,140 (6) 1m 142yds (10)

1	(8)	L-22211	● **CRIMSON RAMBLER (7) (C&D,F)** G Scott 10-1(6ex)	**Liam Wright(5)**	63
2	(5)	46-1212	**KARAKULA DANCER (12)** J Ferguson 9-8	**Harry Vigors(7)**	65
3	(6)	43024L-	**HAZY COSMIC JANE (157)** D Donovan 9-6	**D Probert**	61
4	(10)	087-49	**TIME TO SPARKLE (7)** J Keane 9-4	**J Mitchell**	64
5	(9)	5615-43	**CROWN THE FUTURE (32) (C)** A Carroll 9-4	**W Carson**	64
6	(1)	2-3333L	**CHILLICONCARNEIGH (11)** P Evans 9-3	**P Cosgrave**	★66
7	(3)	530-60	**LASER LUCK (11)** G Tutty 9-3	**G Wood**	64
8	(4)	L-96	**THEPENDLEBURYFOX (29)** G Tutty 9-1	**W Pyle(3)**	59
9	(2)	8LL-4	**SORTED (56)** M Loughnane 8-12	**B Loughnane**	62
10	(7)	LLL	**LUCKY SEVENS (41)** James Owen 8-9	**L Morris**	50

BLINKERS: No. 1 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 2, 5.

SP FORECAST: 6-4 Crimson Rambler, 3 Karakula Dancer, 6 Crown The Future, 8 Lucky Sevens, 12 Sorted, 14 Time To Sparkle, 16 Chilliconcarneigh, 25 Hazy Cosmic Jane, 33 Others.

2025: Hock Eye The Noo 9-8, Callum Shepherd 11-2 (C Johnston), drawn (7), 6 ran.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Standard. Left Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2021-26):** Billy Loughnane 19% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2021-26):** A Carroll 10% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 6.00 Darla's Secret (cheek pieces), Resilient Lady (cheek pieces), 7.00 My Dad Tom (cheek pieces), 8.00 Captain Kinsella (tongue strap). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 5.30 Magician of Riga(hcp). 7.00 My Dad Tom, Watchdog(hcp). 7.30 Twilight Madness(hcp). 8.00 Captain Kinsella, Second Collection(hcp). **DRAW:** Little effect. **LONGEST TRAVELLER: Will Be King** (6.00) & **Phil's Dream** (8.00) Ireland; **Water Of Leith** (7.30) 285 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** 6.00 **Fullofbrightideas** from C Ellam to S Lycett. 6.30 **Porter's Song** from A Fabre in France to E Bethell. 7.30 **Mumayaz** from James Owen to A Carroll. 8.00 **Moonhall Lass** from P J F Murphy in Ireland to James Owen. 8.30 **Crown The Future** from Jack Morland to A Carroll.

GOSSIP FROM THE GALLOPS

Lambourn: VISCOUNTESS NELSON
(2.15 Plumpton)
Wales: DESIDERATA
(6.00 Wolverhampton)
Newmarket: MAGNETUDE
(5.30 Wolverhampton)
Cotswolds: QUEEN OF STEEL
(2.30 Ffos Las)

VITAL STATISTICS

IN-FORM TRAINERS (last 10 days) R Bandey 83% (2 wins and 3 places from 6 runners), J Mackie 67% (1/3/6), C Longsdon 56% (3/6/16), G Tutty 50% (2/0/4).

IN-FORM JOCKEYS Taylor Fisher 80% (3 wins and 1 places from 5 runners), Hector Crouch 57% (2/6/14), Oisin Murphy 54% (6/1/13), Myla Coppins 50% (1/1/4), Ryan Kavanagh 50% (3/3/12).

BY GEORGE, IT'S

Pride over Paris performance does nothing to distract from a

FRANCE 48
ENGLAND 46

FROM **ADAM HATHAWAY** in Paris

JAMIE GEORGE did not sugar coat England's dismal Six Nations despite their contribution to an epic game in Paris that saw France crowned champions.

England, for the first time since beating Wales 48-7 in their Six Nations opener, finally turned up and delivered a long overdue performance of which to be proud. But in the cold light of day their worst return of one win in five games is nothing to puff their chests out about.

They were brilliant at times at Stade de France, but served up some utter dross in the losses to Scotland, Ireland and Italy. They can play rugby, as Saturday showed, but where has it been?

Head coach Steve Borthwick had wanted England to travel to France with the title on the line but that hope went AWOL weeks ago and the RFU review into the tournament should be forensic and public. That review, to examine all aspects of high performance, will begin next week but is set to drag on until next month, once evidence from players and coaches is gathered.

England have not won the Six Nations since 2020 and have won just one Grand Slam since 2003, which is scandalous.

Since Clive Woodward's team ruled 23 years ago, Wales have completed four clean sweeps, France three and Ireland three.

England have been also-rans again this year, with one win to show for all their resources and vast playing numbers. Hooker George said: "I am not shying away from the fact that one in five is not good enough for an England team that have got a huge amount of talent and the players need to take responsibility for that. What we put out on the field in a couple of games in particular wasn't good enough.

"We played against a very good France team, and on another day we might have won that game. I am hoping we've

KICK IN THE GUTS Freeman thought he'd won it (below), but Ramos had the last word

UP AND RUNNING Wales hero Wainwright

Wain's world of difference as Wales finally win

Wales 31 Italy 17

BY **PHIL BLANCHE**

AARON WAINWRIGHT believes brighter times lie ahead for Wales.

Saturday's victory against Italy in Cardiff ended a 15-game Six Nations losing streak that stretched back to March 2023. It was only their third win in 28 Tests – the other two were against Japan – and acts as a huge boost ahead of the inaugural Nations Championship this summer.

Leicester-bound back-rower Wainwright, who shrugged off a pre-game injury scare to score two tries and be named player of the match, said: "We started the campaign against England, and the first 20 minutes we were incredibly poor with our discipline and the accuracy wasn't there.

"How we've grown throughout the tournament could really set us up for when we come into the next campaign. Steve [Tandy, head coach] is really big on his care and connection and making sure we're all aligned with what we want to achieve when we're not in camp.

"So, if we get that right over the next couple of months going into summer tours we can really hit the ground running."

AN EPIC FAILURE

tournament which was simply not good enough, admits Jamie

UNDER REVIEW Pressure for Borthwick

given a lot of England fans a smile on their faces and put a lot of pride back into the shirt."

Thomas Ramos' late penalty nailed the win for France but the Six Nations has been anything but a hard luck story for Borthwick's team.

It was one of the great tournaments, but not for England. They had nine yellow cards across the competition, effectively meaning they played a man down for more than an entire game.

Experienced and very good players including Maro Itoje, Tom Curry and Ellis Genge were put on the naughty step and it came back to bite them with Genge collecting one in Paris.

Vice-captain George added: "Discipline and keeping 15 men on the field is absolutely vital.

"That has been so below par, and something that we have been very frustrated with. We take individual responsibility with it and it hurt again. It's cost us games. And that's definitely something that we need to make sure that we fix."

Next up for England are the reigning world champions South Africa, on July 4, at the fortress of Ellis Park in Johannesburg. Good luck with that one – and that will really show where Borthwick's side are with the World Cup looming next year in Australia.

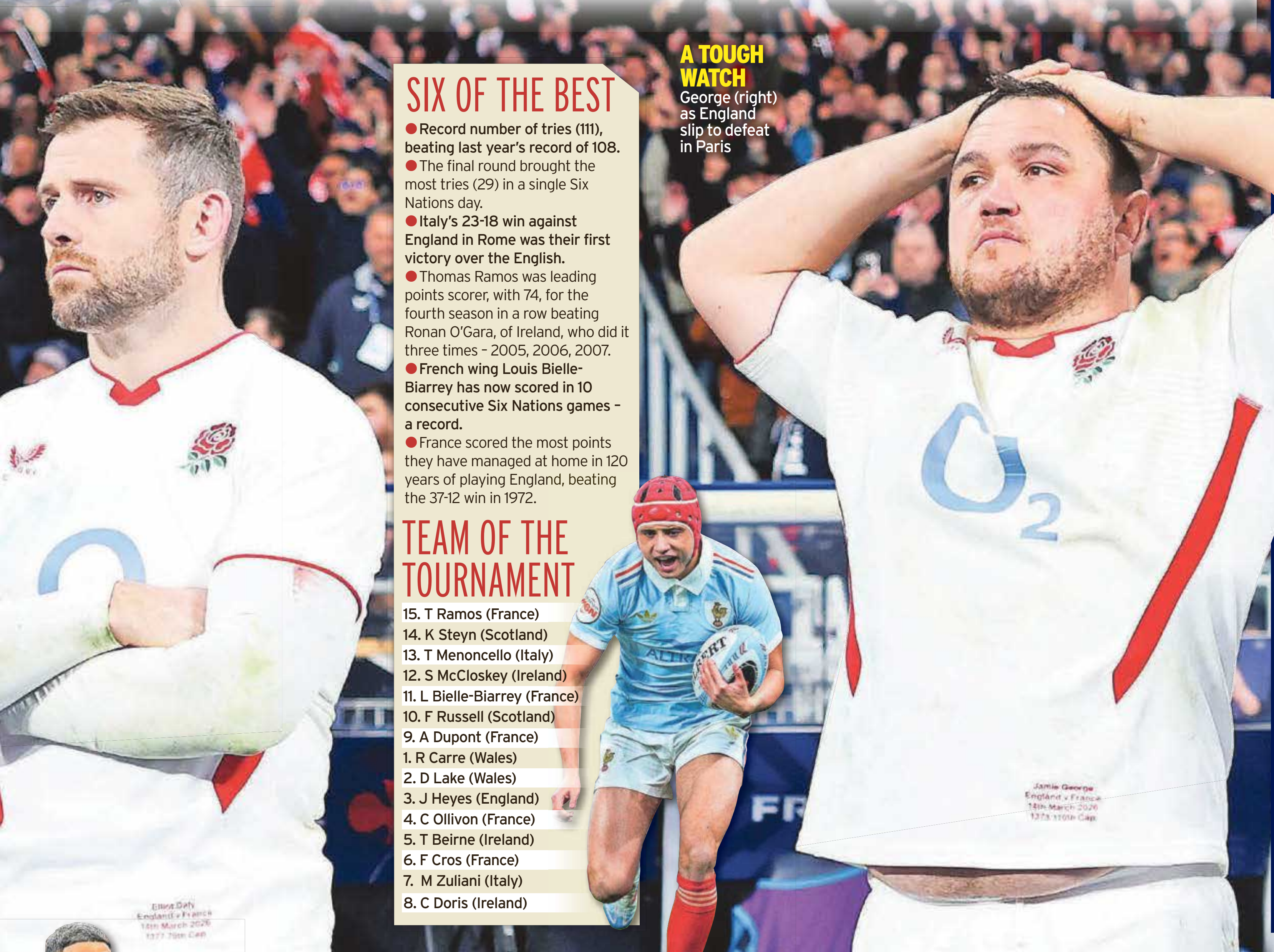
But ever the optimist, George, one of England's best performers, believes the side can do some damage when they arrive Down Under and the embattled Borthwick is the man to take them there. "Under Steve I think we will be right up there with the favourites to win the World Cup in 2027," said the 35-year-old.

"He's an English coach who cares so much about this game and he's a very, very good coach who has created an excellent programme.

"When you combine that with a good group of players it's a recipe for success."

France – Tries: Bielle-Biarrey (4), penalty try, Attissogbe; **Cons:** Ramos (5); **Pens:** Ramos (2).

England – Tries: Roebuck, Murley, Chessum (2), Coles, M Smith, Freeman; **Cons:** F Smith (2), M Smith (2); **Pen:** F Smith.

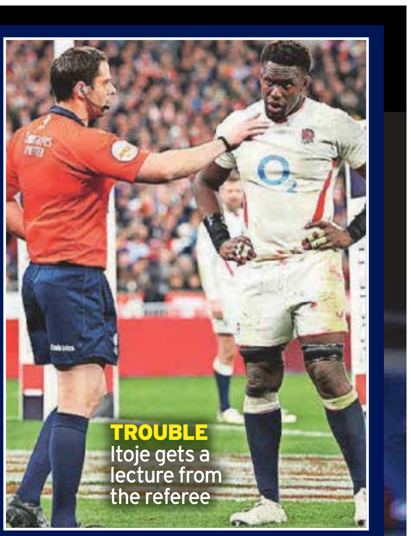

A TOUGH WATCH George (right) as England slip to defeat in Paris

SIX OF THE BEST

- ● **Record number of tries (111), beating last year's record of 108.**
- ● The final round brought the most tries (29) in a single Six Nations day.
- ● **Italy's 23-18 win against England in Rome was their first victory over the English.**
- ● Thomas Ramos was leading points scorer, with 74, for the fourth season in a row beating Ronan O'Gara, of Ireland, who did it three times – 2005, 2006, 2007.
- ● **French wing Louis Bielle-Biarrey has now scored in 10 consecutive Six Nations games – a record.**
- ● France scored the most points they have managed at home in 120 years of playing England, beating the 37-12 win in 1972.

TEAM OF THE TOURNAMENT

15. T Ramos (France)
14. K Steyn (Scotland)
13. T Menoncello (Italy)
12. S McCloskey (Ireland)
11. L Bielle-Biarrey (France)
10. F Russell (Scotland)
9. A Dupont (France)
1. R Carre (Wales)
2. D Lake (Wales)
3. J Heyes (England)
4. C Ollivon (France)
5. T Beirne (Ireland)
6. F Cros (France)
7. M Zuliani (Italy)
8. C Doris (Ireland)


TROUBLE Itoje gets a lecture from the referee

FIVE AREAS WHERE ENGLAND WENT WRONG

BY **ADAM HATHAWAY**

DISCIPLINE

England were shown nine yellow cards in the tournament which is unforgiveable at any level. It is a Six Nations record, joint with Italy in 2002, that no one wants, and it hurt them.

SELECTION

Ollie Chessum's barnstorming performance at blindside flanker on Saturday in Paris proved the folly of playing three opensides in the back row as England did for most of the tournament.

MINDSET

England froze at Murrayfield against Scotland and early on at Twickenham against Ireland when their opposition sprinted to early leads. Being up for it from the first whistle is a non-negotiable.

KICKING

England's mid-tournament slump was highlighted by their poor kicking options, when they often gave the ball to opposing back three players to counter. Kick all you like, but make sure it counts.

PLAYING BY NUMBERS

A team full of experience should be better at playing on the hoof. Too often England's attack floundered when they stuck to the playbook. Fin Smith's kick for Tom Roebuck in Italy was an exception.

Skipper Sione backs Scots to rise to even greater heights after near miss

POSITIVE Scotland captain Tuipulotu

Ireland 43 Scotland 21

BY **EDWARD ELLIOT**

SCOTLAND captain Sione Tuipulotu insists a deflating climax to their Six Nations campaign is not the end for the current squad.

The Glasgow centre's dreams of securing his country's first Triple Crown in 36 years were dashed in Dublin. But the Scots had roared back from a limp opening loss in Italy to regain the Calcutta Cup, secure a fine comeback win against Wales and stun eventual champions France to remain in title contention until the final day.

Tuipulotu said: "I've seen what's gone in behind the scenes and I'm super proud of the group and the way we bounced back after Italy. It's not an easy thing to do and I'm really proud of the boys, how they rallied.

"We've definitely made progress, there's no doubt about that. My goal was to lift that Triple Crown on that field and we didn't get there, but there was progression and I don't feel like it's the end for this group. I feel like this is a good starting point for us. I'm proud of our championship."

Ireland skipper captain Caelan Doris is equally confident Ireland are moving in the right direction after being denied the Six Nations title in dramatic fashion.

Andy Farrell's side were seconds away from championship glory until Thomas Ramos landed a last-gasp penalty to retain the title for France with a gripping 48-46 win against England.

"It's a great group," said Doris. "There's depth building there, there's competition building within the squad.

"We're moving things in the right way and it's been enjoyable chasing down the potential and seeing some of the growth over the last number of weeks."

WORLD OF SPORT

Tigers maul Chiefs to lift PREM Rugby Cup

RUGBY UNION

Leicester	66
Exeter	14

LEICESTER TIGERS ran in 10 tries as they demolished Exeter Chiefs to lift their first PREM Rugby Cup.

In challenging conditions at Welford Road, Leicester scored three converted tries inside the opening 13 minutes.

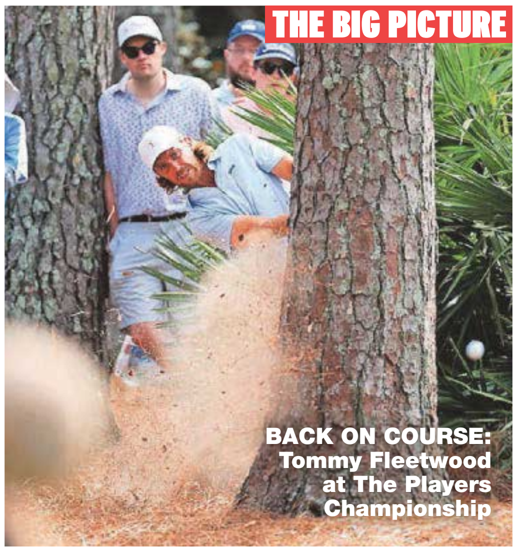
WAND

Centre Will Wand forced his way over before Ollie Hassell-Collins' line-break and pass allowed prop Archie van der Flier to touch down. Fly-half Billy Searle, who had converted the first two tries, repeated the dose after claiming the third himself to make it 21-0. Wand, Searle and Van der Flier all went over twice each to help wrap up the season's first domestic trophy.

Searle said: "It's massive for the club. It's a real squad effort, and we've delivered under pressure.

"It's special to have a final at home, and to put on a performance like that is really pleasing."

THE BIG PICTURE


BACK ON COURSE: Tommy Fleetwood at The Players Championship

PARALYMPICS

BY **LAURA HOWARD** in Cortina

NEIL SIMPSON'S tilt at a second Winter Paralympic medal in Milan-Cortina ended before it had even begun.

The Beijing 2022 Super-G champion had won super-combined silver in Italy. But he was unable to add to it on the Games' final day after straddling a gate at the top of the course on his first run.

The 23-year-old, who is guided by Rob Poth, had finished top in the slalom component of his silver medal-winning run, but failed to end his campaign on a high.

"It's part of ski racing and just one of those things," Simpson said. "It is disappointing but we'll take a bit of time to process it."

It meant ParalympicsGB failed to hit their medal target of two to five, with Simpson's silver ending up their only prize.

10 to tackle

1. Who scored two tries for Sale Sharks in the PREM Rugby Cup Pool A Round 9 defeat by Gloucester last month?
2. **Which Spanish rider won Race 2 in the 2026 Supersport World Championship, the Australian Round?**
3. Who scored four goals for Newcastle United in this season's Champions League knockout phase play-off first leg win at Qarabag?
4. **Which English player won the World Snooker Championship in 2002?**
5. In what country was former British athlete Zola Budd born?
6. **Against whom did Muhammad Ali regain his undisputed world heavyweight boxing title in 1974?**
7. Which tennis player was men's singles winner at the inaugural Halle Open in 1993?
8. **Which Swedish skier was Olympic Slalom and Giant Slalom champion in 1980?**
9. Which Australian won his final Formula One world drivers' championships in 1966?
10. **Which American jockey rode the Derby winners Slip Anchor and Reference Point?**

RATINGS
0-3 Oh dear
4-6 Small beer
7-9 So near
10 Sporting Seer

ANSWERS: 1 Alex Wills. 2 Albert Arenas. 3 Anthony Gordon. 4 Peter Ebdon. 5 South Africa. 6 George Foreman. 7 Henri Leconte. 8 Ingemar Stenmark. 9 Jack Brabham. 10 Steve Cauthen.

TOTO'S TRIPLE CROWN

Wolff savours perfect podium as Hamilton follows Mercedes pair

BY **DANIEL MOXON**

TOTO WOLFF can be a tough nut to crack, but his soft centre was fully on show as he watched the podium ceremony in Shanghai with pride.

He looked up and saw young Kimi Antonelli, who joined Mercedes as a 12-year-old, holding back tears as he celebrated becoming a Formula One race winner.

He saw their previous prodigy and now team leader George Russell on the second step, with long-serving engineer Peter Bonnington collecting the constructors' trophy. And he saw Lewis Hamilton, now of Ferrari but who Wolff still very much considers to be one of Mercedes' own, on the third step.

"That podium now was probably one of the best moments I've ever had," said the Mercedes team principal.

"The three of them, with Bono right in the middle. It's rare that I'm overwhelmed, but that was such a moment."

Everything looks very rosy for his team right now, after a near-perfect start to the new campaign.

Just three points have been dropped, after Antonelli fell from second on the grid to fifth in Saturday's Sprint race.

But he more than made up for it 24 hours later with an impressive victory from pole, leading Mercedes' second one-two finish in as many Sundays.

They've now managed as many of those in seven days as they did

JOY RIDE Wolff with Antonelli and (above) with Hamilton and Russell

TEEN DREAM Antonelli, flanked by Russell (left) and Hamilton

RACE RESULT

1	**Antonelli** (Ita)	1:33:15.607
2	**Russell** (Gbr)	+5.515secs
3	**Hamilton** (Gbr)	+ 25.267
4	**Leclerc** (Mon)	+ 28.894
5	**Bearman** (Gbr)	+ 57.268
6	**Gasly** (Fra)	+ 59.647

DRIVERS' STANDINGS

1	**Russell** (Gbr)	51pts
2	**Antonelli** (Ita)	47
3	**Leclerc** (Mon)	34
4	**Hamilton** (Gbr)	33
5	**Bearman** (Gbr)	17
6	**Norris** (Gbr)	15

CONSTRUCTORS

1	**Mercedes GP**	98pts
2	**Ferrari**	67
3	**McLaren**	18
4	**Haas F1**	17
5	**Red Bull**	12
6	**RB**	12
7	**Alpine**	10
8	**Audi**	2
9	**Williams**	2
10	**Cadillac**	0
11	**Aston Martin**	0

across five whole seasons between 2021 and 2025.

Antonelli, 19, is only the second teenager to win a Grand Prix, after Max Verstappen's first win as an 18-year-old a decade ago.

Impressively, the Italian did it in a straight fight with his much more experienced team-mate Russell, even if Charles Leclerc slotting between them on the first lap helped a little.

The Ferraris again enjoyed a superb launch, though Antonelli, who struggled off the line in the Sprint 24 hours earlier, held his own. Hamilton muscled past for an early lead but the youngster held off Leclerc, which was crucial to his win.

Because by the time the Mercedes cars used their superior engines to get back past the Ferraris, Antonelli had a gap to Russell – he just needed to maintain it.

And he did so with little trouble, except for one lock-up with three laps left as adrenaline surged through his body.

"I gave myself a little bit of a heart attack," Antonelli said.

Behind them, Hamilton and Leclerc produced much of the race's entertainment with a thrilling duel for the final podium place. After a superb display of tough but fair racing, Hamilton was delighted to eventually come out on top and secure his first podium for Ferrari.

The 41-year-old said: "I definitely feel like I am back, both mentally and physically, to my best.

"This podium has taken longer than I had hoped. But after a difficult year, to be able to develop and work on this season's car gives me huge pride.

"A first win [with Ferrari] is more in sight than ever before, and last year it could not have been further from view."

Ferrari were able to fight without any pressure from the McLarens that would have started behind them, had they not both suffered electrical problems before the race.

It meant a first double DNS for McLaren since the infamous 2005 Indianapolis race in which only six cars took part.

Lando Norris, whose chances of a successful title defence already look slim, said: "My first non-start in Formula 1. It's tough to take, but that's life sometimes."

FIRST-CLASS KIMI

FROM BACK PAGE

and had some really special moments together.

"Happy Mother's Day to my mum, and to my stepmum Linda, who has been here with me many times and has been a huge part of my life. And also to all the mums around the world."

Antonelli, meanwhile, struggled to speak as tears flowed down his face (below) after becoming the second-youngest grand prix winner, behind only Max Verstappen, who was 18 when he won the 2016 Spanish Grand Prix.

When he had composed himself Antonelli, also the first Italian race winner since Giancarlo Fisichella at the 2006 Malaysian Grand, said: "Thank you so much to my team, as they helped me achieve this dream.

"I really wanted to bring Italy back on top and we did today."

Mercedes team principal Toto Wolff beamed with pride as he added: "This moment was never in doubt for Kimi.

"Right from his days in karting, we have known that he has all the talent necessary to develop into a grand prix winner.

"His family, along with the team, have done a brilliant job nurturing that talent and today shows that."

The victory left Antonelli just four points behind Russell at the top of the drivers' standings after two races of the new season.

It continues in a fortnight at Suzuka for the Japanese Grand Prix.

LOVELY BUBBLY Antonelli drinks in the acclaim after his coming-of-age victory in China

FED-UP Verstappen hit out

Max: New rules are ruining F1

BY **DANIEL MOXON**

MAX VERSTAPPEN claimed Formula One's new cars and regulations will "eventually ruin the sport" after a miserable weekend for Red Bull.

Verstappen jetted out of Shanghai pointless, forced to retire with a coolant failure with 10 laps to go in yesterday's Chinese Grand Prix.

Red Bull have just 12 points to show for their first two weekends – the same as junior team Racing Bulls and five fewer than Haas.

That did not help the four-time champion's mood as he again denounced the direction in which F1 has gone.

He said: "If you just speak to most of the drivers, it's not what we like. I don't think it's what the real F1 fans like. Maybe some fans like it, but they don't understand racing.

"Hopefully, we can get rid of this... it will eventually ruin the sport. It will come and bite them back in the ass."

In a much better mood was Haas star Oliver Bearman, who would have finished ahead of Verstappen in fifth, even if the Dutchman did not have to park his Red Bull.

He has enjoyed a stellar start to his second season and is also fifth in the standings, behind only the Mercedes and Ferrari drivers.

Bearman said: "On lap one, I was very unlucky with [Isack] Hadjar spinning in front of me. I really thought the race was over.

"I was back in P14 or something. I just had nowhere to go, I had to go off track to avoid the crash and, from there, I thought it was going to be a long day.

"Luckily, the safety car came out at the right point. But still, we needed to have the pace and the car was very quick today, we were flying.

"We couldn't have asked for more [from the first two races] and I just want to keep pushing like this now."

NATHAN'S READY TO BITE BACK

Brentford v Wolves
Tonight, 8pm, Sky Sports

BY **JASON MELLOR**

NATHAN COLLINS still has nightmares about being thrown to the Wolves.

Brentford's Irish skipper is keen to avoid a repeat of his career low as he prepares to face his former club at the Gtech Community Stadium tonight.

The 24-year-old (above) had an absolute shocker in his first appearance against the Molineux side five months after a £23m move to the Bees in 2023.

He said: "I had one game for Brentford against Wolves where I made mistakes to give away two goals. We lost 4-1 and I got battered off the Wolves fans.

"I'd just left and the supporters had so much to go against me, so much stick. I was like, 'Oh my god, this couldn't have got any worse?'

"To be fair, that night the manager at the time Thomas Frank rang me and he was like, 'Listen, Nathan, that's the worst game you'll ever have in your career, so it's only up from here'."

Keith Andrews' side will look to boost their push for Europe with a fourth win in seven against a Wolves side bidding for a third straight victory.

But Wolves defender Ladislav Krejci said: "We've beaten Aston Villa and Liverpool and those games have given us a lot of belief, a lot of confidence and a lot of energy."

Rams turning to Rich experience

Portsmouth v Derby
Tonight, 8pm, Sky Sports

JOHN EUSTACE insists veteran keeper Richard O'Donnell can answer Derby's SOS.

The well-travelled 37-year-old (inset) is set to make only his fourth start in the last 15 months at Portsmouth.

He came on at Millwall last Tuesday for Josh Vickers, himself a stand-in for Jacob Widell Zetterstrom.

Rams boss Eustace said: "We have got full confidence in Rich. He's stepped up already twice this season and been outstanding."

Pompey manager John Mousinho said: "This period could be season-defining."

HIGH POINT Casemiro leaps highest to head home and give United the second-half advantage

Boys from Brazil in double act to keep Carrick's Red Devils revival in full swing

MAN UTD 3
Casemiro 53, Cunha 71, Sesko 81
ASTON VILLA 1
Barkley 64

BY **JEREMY CROSS**

A DOUBLE dose of Brazilian brilliance helped Manchester United beat Aston Villa and take a huge step towards Champions League qualification.

Casemiro put United ahead with a superb header after the break.

And after Ross Barkley had equalised on his first league start for 14 months, Matheus Cunha rode to the rescue with a sublime finish to restore United's lead.

Substitute Benjamin Sesko completed the victory to cement United's place in third, three points clear of Villa with eight games remaining.

That left Villa boss Unai Emery seething, as he continues to stand and watch his side do their best to blow a top-four finish.

The Midlanders had been looking to do their first league double over United since 1955. But they arrived in Manchester having won just three of their last 11, a run that was threatening to ruin hopes of a Champions League place.

United, meanwhile, were looking to bounce back from losing at Newcastle last time out.

Michael Carrick recalled Amad Diallo at the expense of Sesko, one of two changes from the loss at St James' Park.

And it turned out to be a decision he would be regretting long before half-time.

The first half was comical at times. Casemiro, Tyrone Mings, Diogo Dalot and Emi Martinez all kicked the ball out of play by mistake, while it took six Villa players to decide what to do at a free-kick, the end result of which was nothing.

The game had a pedestrian pace for long spells. It resembled walking football.

But United did flirt with the idea of breathing some life into it.

Cunha delivered a great cross which Diallo flung himself at, but he was unable to make contact.

Then another great cross from Leny Yoro went to waste.

If only United had a proper striker to convert those opportunities, instead of Bryan Mbeumo?

The same Mbeumo who tried a shot at goal and almost took out the corner flag.

The closest United came to ending the tedium was when Harry Maguire headed a corner into the path of Diallo, whose shot was superbly saved by Martinez.

A delightful pass from Bruno Fernandes sent Dalot in behind Lucas Digne, but with just Martinez to beat, he blazed his effort into the crowd.

Cunha dragged a shot wide, Ezri Konsa blocked another effort from Casemiro and Martinez denied Mbeumo.

If ever a game needed a goal, it was this one. And it arrived before the hour mark when Casemiro nipped between two defenders to send a flicked header past Martinez and into the far corner.

It took a superb save from Senne Lammens to stop Amadou Onana from equalising.

But there was nothing he could do to keep out Barkley's curling effort moments later, which hauled Villa back into the game.

VAR checked it and ruled Onana had not been offside, or impacting the view of Lammens at the time.

Substitute Tammy Abraham blew a golden chance to put Villa ahead and it cost them dear when Cunha latched on to a wonderful pass from Fernandes before beating Martinez with a stunning finish.

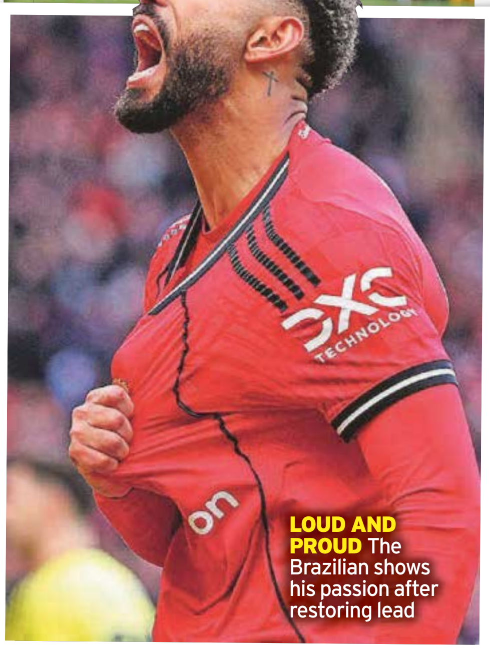
And when Sesko made it 3-1 with a sharp turn and finish, Carrick could finally relax, unlike opposite number Emery, who did his best Basil Fawlty impression on the touchline.

STAR TURN Casemiro gets a hug from boss Carrick

HAVE SAMBA THAT!

LEAPS AND BOUNDS Sub Sesko celebrates the third goal with fellow scorer Cunha

BACK IN FRONT Matheus Cunha beats Villa keeper Martinez for United's second



LOUD AND PROUD The Brazilian shows his passion after restoring lead

PREMIER LEAGUE

MAN UNITED		ASTON VILLA
53%	POSSESSION	47%
6	SHOTS ON TARGET	2
6	SHOTS OFF TARGET	5
479	TOTAL PASSES	425
6	CORNERS	6
1	OFFSIDES	1
10	FOULS	5
0 3	CARDS	2 0

REF: Anthony Taylor **ATT:** 73,997

LINE-UPS

MAN UNITED (4-2-3-1): Lammens; Dalot, Yoro, Maguire, Shaw; Casemiro (Ugarte 90), Mainoo; Diallo, Fernandes, Cunha; Mbeumo (Sesko 75).

ASTON VILLA (4-2-3-1): Martinez; Bogarde, Konsa, Mings, Digne (Maatsen 82); Barkley (Luiz 82), Onana; McGinn (Bailey 61), Rogers, Buendia (Garcia 86); Watkins (Abraham 61).

MAN OF THE MATCH
BRUNO FERNANDES

STRUGGLING Villa manager Unai Emery

'YOU CAN ALWAYS COUNT ON HIM'

FROM BACK PAGE

League era, while overtaking Beckham's United record of 15 in a single season, set in 2000.

The future of Fernandes remains unclear, with the 31-year-old, whose contract at Old Trafford expires after next season, admitting he will wait until the summer before deciding his next move.

But interim head coach Carrick outlined Fernandes's ongoing value to the team when he said: "We're delighted to have him. He's not someone you'd want to lose.

"He's proven over a period of time how impactful he is in the big moments. He's there all the time.

"You can always count on him to be there. It's a really good trait to have.

"He's been through ups and downs here but it's never knocked him. He is there to make the difference." On his milestone, Fernandes said: "I am more pleased because I did it serving my team-mates. That is even better, giving joy to the others is very good.

"I am very happy I can help them to score and be happy. It's a huge achievement for me."

On the result, Carrick said: "I was happy with a lot of things, I thought we looked a good team."

Villa have now lost three league games on the spin to leave their Champions League qualification hopes looking vulnerable and head coach Unai Emery said: "We could have dominated more. We lost it in the second half.

"We have been struggling more in the last two months. We competed, but United played a very intelligent match.

"But we can get better. This is a bad result for us now, but we must prepare for the next challenge."

RESULTS & FIXTURES

CRICKET

FIRST T20I — New Zealand v South Africa (Mount Maunganui): New Zealand 91-10 (14.3 overs; N Mokoena 3-26); South Africa 93-3 (16.4 overs). *South Africa win by 7 wickets.*

THIRD ONE DAY INTERNATIONAL — Bangladesh v Pakistan (Mirpur): Bangladesh 290-5 (50.0 overs; T H Tamim 107; H Rauf 3-52); Pakistan 279-10 (50.0 overs; S A Agha 106; T Ahmed 4-49; M M Rahman 3-54). *Bangladesh win by 11 runs*.

SECOND T20 INTERNATIONAL — Afghanistan v Sri Lanka (Sharjah): Match Postponed

CYCLING

UCI WORLD TOUR PARIS-NICE — Stage 8 (Nice - Nice, 145km):1 L Martinez (Fra) Bahrain Victorious 3h 6m 43s, 2 J Vingegaard (Den) Team Visma | Lease a Bike at same time, 3 H Tejada (Col) XDS Astana Team +7s. **Overall**: 1 J Vingegaard (Den) Team Visma | Lease a Bike 25h 25m 11s.

FORMULA ONE

CHINESE GRAND PRIX (Shanghai International Circuit) — **Race** (56 laps): 1 Andrea Kimi Antonelli (Ita) Mercedes GP, 2 George Russell (Gbr) Mercedes GP at 5.515secs, 3 Lewis Hamilton (Gbr) Ferrari at 25.267, 4 Charles Leclerc (Mon) Ferrari at 28.894, 5 Oliver Bearman (Gbr) Haas F1 at 57.268.

GOLF

WOMEN'S AUSTRALIAN OPEN (Adelaide, Australia) — **Final Round:** (Gbr & Irl unless stated, Par 72): **277** H Green (Aus) 70 69 68 70, **278** A Laisne (Fra) 69 70 72 67, C Porter (Aus) 72 76 68 62, **282** C Alexander (Rsa) 73 71 67 71, K Davidson (Aus) 72 72 68 70, **283** M Simmermacher (Arg) 70 71 67 75

LIV GOLF SINGAPORE (Sentosa Golf Club, Singapore)— **Final Round:** (USA unless stated, Par 71): **270** B DeChambeau 67 65 72 66 (won after the first extra Play-Off hole), R T. Lee (Can) 67 68 69 66, **272** L Westwood 67 68 68 69, 273 J Niemann (Chi) 69 68 66 70, **274** J Rahm (Spa) 67 68 71 68, **275** J Luis Ballester (Spa) 73 66 69 67, T Pieters (Bel) 72 68 70 65

RUGBY LEAGUE

Saturday

Challenge Cup Fourth Round

CASTLEFORD ....8 ST HELENS..........32
Castleford—T: Qaraqare, Golding.
St Helens—T: Clark, Murphy, Percival, Sailor, Pa'asi, Feldt. **G**: Hastings (3), Sailor.

CATALANS D....... 58 OLDHAM 0
Catalans Dragons—T: Marc (3), Darrelatour, Satae, Laulu-Togagae, Leeming, Lipowicz, Staines (2), Sexton. **G**: Sexton (5), Aispuro-Bichet (2).

GOOLE VIKINGS .. 10 WARRINGTON 78
Goole Vikings—T: Howlett (2). **G**: Miller.
Warrington—T: J. Thewlis (3), J. Smith (2), Wood, Crowther, Walker, Harrison, Webster, Hartill, Hayes, Irwin. **G**: Irwin (13).

HUDDERSFIELD... 12 HULL K R............ 52
Huddersfield—T: Milne (2). **G**: Russell (2).
Hull K R—T: Whitehead, Lewis (2), Hiku, Amone, Leyland, Luckley, Gildart, Broadbent. **G**: Martin (8).

LEIGH .... 16 HULL 6
Leigh—T: Senior, Lam. **G**: Cook (4).
Hull—T: Cust. **G**: Hardaker.

YORK.................. 56 KEIGHLEY 10
York—T: Harris (2), Vuniyayawa (2), Wood, Balmforth, Dee, Griffin, Jones-Bishop, Hingano, Williams. **G**: Harris (3), McShane (2), Williams.
Keighley—T: Holroyd, Flanagan JR. **G**: Farrell.

RUGBY UNION

Saturday

Guinness Six Nations

FRANCE .... 48 ENGLAND............ 46
France—T: Bielle-Biarrey (4), Penalty, Attissogbe. **C**: Ramos (5). **P**: Ramos (2).
England—T: Roebuck, Murley, Chessum (2), Coles, M. Smith, Freeman. **C**: F. Smith (2), M. Smith (2). **P**: F. Smith.

IRELAND .... 43 SCOTLAND 21
Ireland—T: Osborne, Sheehan, Baloucoune, D. Murray, T. O'Brien (2). **C**: Crowley (5). **P**: Crowley.
Scotland—T: Graham, Russell, Darge. **C**: Russell (3).

WALES................ 31 ITALY.................. 17
Wales—T: Wainwright (2), Lake, Edwards. **C**: Edwards (4). **DG**: Edwards.
Italy—T: Di Bartolomeo, Allan, P. Garbisi. **C**: P. Garbisi.

	P	W	D	L	B	F	A	Pts
France	5	4	0	1	5	211	130	21
Ireland	5	4	0	1	3	146	108	19
Scotland	5	3	0	2	4	143	144	16
Italy	5	2	0	3	1	79	117	9
England	5	1	0	4	4	153	151	8
Wales	5	1	0	4	2	90	172	6

United Rugby Championship

BLUE BULLS .... 19 STORMERS 32

Yesterday

Premiership Rugby Cup Final

LEICESTER.......... 66 EXETER............... 14
Leicester—T: Wand (2), van der Flier (2), Searle (2), Penalty, Hamer-Webb, Haffar, O'Connor. **C**: Searle (7).
Exeter—T: Vintcent, Haydon-Wood. **C**: Hodge (2).

GUINNESS U-20 SIX NATIONS — France 31 England 28, Ireland 42 Scotland 14, Wales 13 Italy 20.

TODAY'S DIARY

Premier League
Brentford v Wolverhampton (8pm) ....
(Live on Sky Sports Main Event)

Sky Bet Championship
Portsmouth v Derby (8pm).......................
(Live on Sky Sports Football)

PREMIER LEAGUE

LIVERPOOL		TOTTENHAM
63%	POSSESSION	37%
4	SHOTS ON TARGET	7
7	SHOTS OFF TARGET	3
550	TOTAL PASSES	319
3	CORNERS	4
0	OFFSIDES	1
8	FOULS	13
🟥 0 🟨 0	CARDS	🟨 1 🟥 0

REF: Chris Kavanagh

LINE-UPS

LIVERPOOL (4-2-3-1): Alisson; Szoboszlai, Gomez, Van Dijk, Robertson; Gravenberch, Mac Allister; Frimpong (Salah 64), Wirtz (Jones 64), Ngumoha (Ekitike 64); Gakpo (Nyoni 83)

TOTTENHAM (4-4-2): Vicario; Porro, Danso, Dragusin, Spence (Olusesi 76); Souza (Simons 56), Gray, Sarr, Tel (Kolo Muani 76); Richarlison (Rowswell 96), Solanke

MAN OF THE MATCH
DOMINIK SZOBOSZLAI

KOP SCUFF IT

Slot's stuttering champions suffer another late collapse

IGOR'S OFF THE MARK
Tudor earned his first point as Tottenham boss

LIVERPOOL 1
Szoboszlai 18
TOTTENHAM 1
Richarlison 90

BY **ANDY DUNN**

ONE has a single point from his four Premier League matches, one won the Premier League title in his first season.

But Arne Slot looked like the manager under pressure when Richarlison mis-hit a scruffy equaliser as the Anfield clock ticked towards added time.

Igor Tudor, whose calamitous spell as Spurs manager could still end soon, leapt into and punched the air, while Slot could only shake his head in disbelief.

This result was a significant blow for Slot and Liverpool but a bigger issue for the Dutchman is the growing discontent around Anfield. The nature of the setback – Liverpool yet again conceding a late goal – was certain to prompt some jeering but there was not a great amount of enthusiasm for the home performance ahead of Richarlison's leveller.

In fact, Liverpool had only been ahead through a goalkeeping error.

Dominik Szoboszlai has established himself as one of the Premier League's most lethal set-piece exponents and his first-half strike was typically sweet.

It was firmly hit and had a smidgeon of sideways movement but Vicario really should have saved it. In fact, he probably should have shuffled across and caught it.

Perhaps Tudor has managed to undermine the confidence of two keepers, having made the ill-fated decision not to start Vicario against Atletico Madrid. Under Tudor, Spurs have maintained their knack of conceding soft goals. In fact, they might just have upped it.

Not that Szoboszlai should have held back on his celebrations. This was his fourth goal from direct free-kicks this season and his satisfaction was probably enhanced by a spot of frustration at again being deployed at right-back.

Of course he performs his designated duty with diligence – and no little excellence – but it is obvious he does not relish the role.

He was there because Slot was using Jeremie Frimpong in the Mo Salah position, with Rio Ngumoha on the left flank.

Such has been Salah's extended dip in form, Slot's decision was no headline-grabber, although you suspect the Egyptian will return for Champions League duty in midweek.

Ngumoha's contribution was exciting, if a little inconsistent. He is a raw talent, that is for sure.

And the 17-year-old (left) stood out in a Liverpool team that is still groping for its best form.

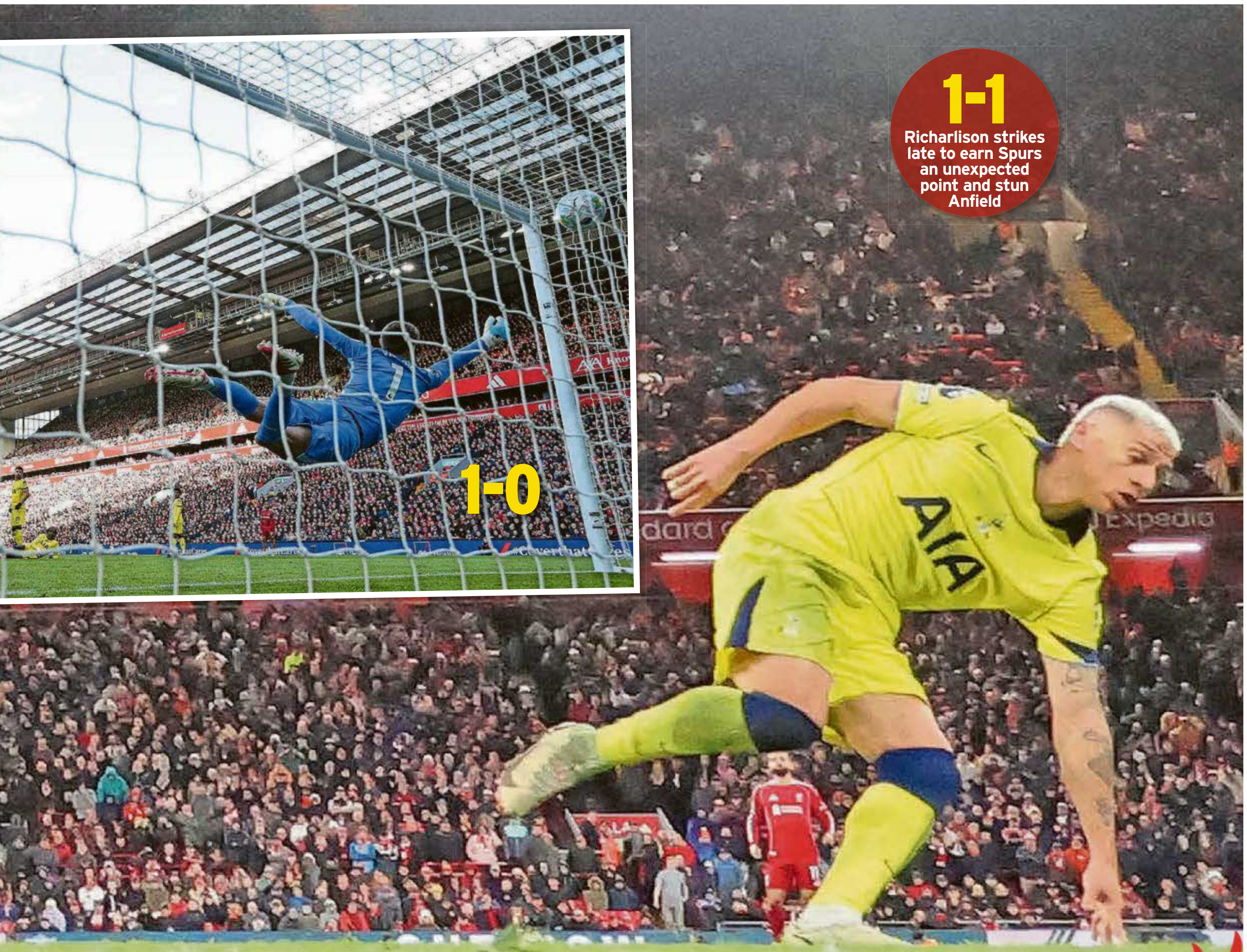
Not everything he did came off. Occasionally, he chose the wrong option. He was slightly off-cue when trying to convert a couple of half-chances.

But Anfield still sang his name, still acclaimed a teenager who will shine on this stage for many years to come.

Ngumoha did not play in the Egyptian's position but he started and Salah did not.

It felt like a significant moment in Liverpool time.

Salah was sent on for half an hour and looked a certainty to score on the counter-attack on



1-1

Richarlison strikes late to earn Spurs an unexpected point and stun Anfield

UP AGAIN

THE TURNING POINT?

more than one occasion. But in a microcosm of his season, his finishing was panicky. He has gone from instinctive to indecisive.

Ultimately, Salah's failure to put the outcome beyond doubt proved costly as Andy Robertson failed to make a relatively simple clearance and Randal Kolo Muani set up Richarlison's equaliser.

This season, Liverpool have now conceded eight Premier League goals in the 90th minute or later and they have dropped seven points from winning positions at Anfield. No wonder the locals jeered.

UP IN ARMS Disbelieving Slot saw his side throw away yet more late points

FROM BACK PAGE

even explain our circumstances.

"This morning, Conor [Gallagher] says that he is not able to play so we need to change the players and positions.

"The moment is really strange and even more challenging to show who we are. The players were really amazing."

While the travelling Spurs fans stayed behind to salute their team, the home fans jeered their side at the final whistle.

And Dominik Szoboszlai (above), whose free-kick had given Liverpool a first-half lead, could understand their frustration, saying: "We have to wake up because if we carry on like this, we should be happy with the Conference League.

"I don't know why this is happening. That is a huge disappointment. I feel flat. This is the most difficult time, but we have to stick together. I didn't hear the boos, but we can understand them. We are not performing how we should.

"There is still time to show how much we want it, we have to stick together and fight for the club."

And Liverpool head coach Arne Slot said: "Every time it happens in the last minute it is an enormous frustration. How many times does it need to happen?

"This time it didn't come as a complete surprise – the last 15-20 minutes of the game were the most equal part of the game.

"We have conceded far too many goals to pick up the amount of points that this club and I am used to.

"We have so much attacking quality but if you don't score enough, you have to keep a clean sheet and we haven't done that enough this season."

He added: "Most of the chances they had came from similar situations, as the goal did – long ball, picked up the second ball and they ran through us."

PEP: CITY HAVE TO BE BELIEVERS

BY **STEVE JUDGE**

PEP GUARDIOLA has told his Manchester City players to stay at home if they are not up for 'mission impossible' against Real Madrid tomorrow night.

No team has ever comeback from a three-goal first-leg deficit against the Spaniards who have ended City's Champions League hopes in each of the past two seasons.

Guardiola (top) said: "If the players don't believe, it's their problem. They are adults. If they don't believe in that, in the Champions League, go home, stay home."

UEFA'S BIG MATCH IN QATAR SCRAPPED

THE 2026 Finalissima between Spain and Argentina, scheduled to take place in Qatar on March 27, has been cancelled due to the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, UEFA has announced.

The match, between the respective reigning champions of Europe and South America, will not be rearranged after UEFA said the Argentinian Football Association rejected a number of alternative proposals.

They included switching the game to the Bernabeu, or a two-legged encounter with matches in Madrid and then Buenos Aires.

"It is a source of great disappointment," said UEFA in a statement yesterday.

COLE GETS TOP JOB AT CESENA

BY **DARREN WELLS**

ASHLEY COLE is the new head coach of Italian Serie B side Cesena.

The former England, Arsenal and Chelsea left-back (above) has signed a contract until the end of the season with the option to extend if certain conditions are met.

It is the first managerial post for Cole, 45, who left his coaching role with Birmingham to join the FA full-time in September 2024.

He takes former Chelsea academy coach and ex-Bristol Rovers assistant manager Jack Mesure with him to Italy as his No.2.

BARRY: MY FRIENDS ARE ALL TRUE BLUES

BY **JOE THOMAS**

THIERNO BARRY denied claims friends of his in the Everton end at Arsenal were supporting the home team.

Following an altercation in the away stands – with Barry (left) claiming his associates had to be escorted away due to safety concerns – it was suggested that trouble was sparked by people among the Blues fans who appeared to be backing Arsenal. But Barry posted on Instagram: "I never gave tickets to Arsenal supporters. The people who were present to support me have always followed the clubs I have played for."

DAILY EXPRESS
SPORT
express.co.uk/sport

Red Roses hit for Six

ENGLAND VERDICT: SEE P44-45

A HUG MOMENT Hamilton and Antonelli (right) had lots to celebrate

KIMI COMES OF AGE

BY **DANIEL MOXON**

LEWIS HAMILTON hailed Kimi Antonelli as the sobbing Mercedes star became only the second teenager to win a Formula One Grand Prix.

And there was joy for Hamilton, too, the seven-time champion finally securing a first podium in Ferrari colours – the perfect Mother's Day gift for his mum Carmen. She gave Hamilton a huge hug before watching with pride as he joined his former Mercedes team-mate George Russell on the podium in Shanghai.

To Antonelli, 19, Hamilton said: "I'm so, so happy for you buddy.

"I'm so honoured to be able to share this moment with him." As for his own achievement, the Brit said of his third place: "I had so much fun. It was one of the most enjoyable races that I've had in a long, long time, if ever.

"It's such a special day, one of the most amazing weeks I've had. I've travelled out here with my mum, travelled around

TURN TO PAGE 47, COL 4

LIVERPOOL 1 1 TOTTENHAM

Tudor hopes late equaliser is the 'turning point' in Spurs' survival fight

MERSEY MISSION Richarlison enjoys Anfield equaliser to boost Tudor (inset)

RAGS TO RICHES

BY **ANDY DUNN**

IGOR TUDOR collected his first Premier League point with Tottenham and believes it could be the "turning point" in their relegation battle.

The interim Tottenham head coach saw Richarlison score a dramatic 90th-minute equaliser at Anfield and paid tribute to his injury-hit side.

"Today is a game where we came here with 12 players," Tudor said. "This is something big for our fans, for the players.

"There was progress in terms of mentality and will to stay and suffer.

"It is an amazing, incredible point – and we deserved it. We showed team spirit. Every point is crucial. We hope today is a turning point. It is very difficult to

TURN TO PAGE 51, COLUMN 3

Ton of joy for Bruno

MAN UNITED	3
ASTON VILLA	1

BY **JEREMY CROSS**

MICHAEL CARRICK hailed Bruno Fernandes after seeing him break a record belonging to David Beckham in Manchester United's crucial victory against Aston Villa.

Captain Fernandes set up two of United's goals in the win, which strengthened their grip on third place and saw them take a huge step towards Champions League qualification.

It took the Portugal star (above) to 100 assists in all competitions in the Premier

TURN TO PAGE 49, COLUMN 2

DAILY EXPRESS
Fever Pitch
WEEKEND FOOTBALL: ACTION, REACTION & ANALYSIS
CHEER YOU GO

YOUR PULLOUT FREE INSIDE

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Puzzles

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Fill the grid so that every column, row, and 3x3 square includes all of the digits from one to nine. **Solutions tomorrow**

EASY

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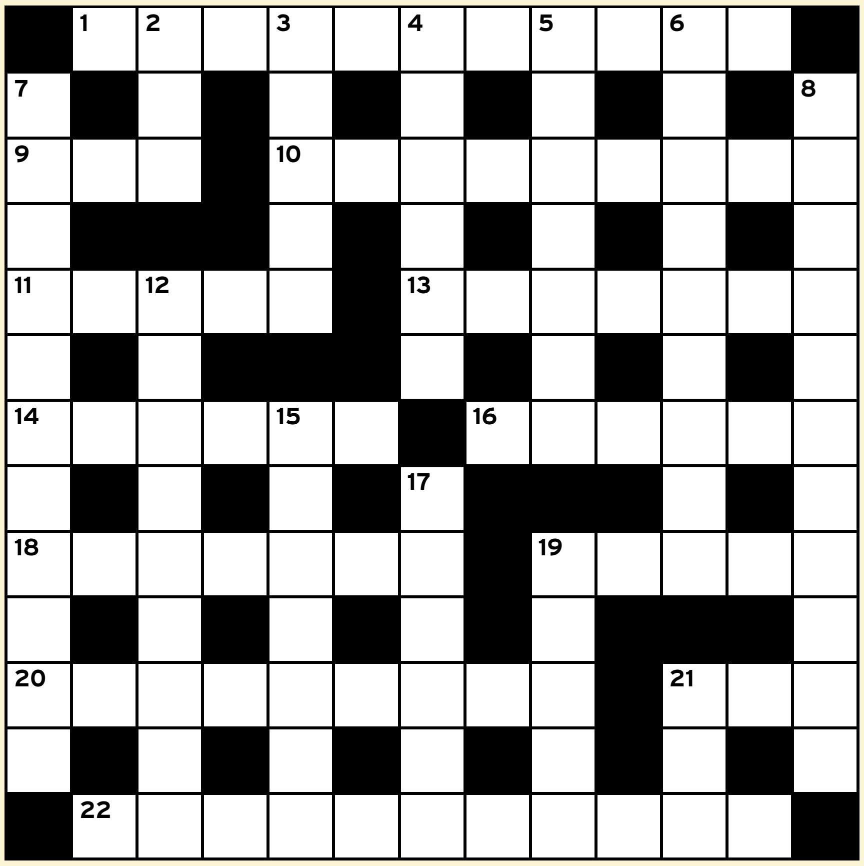
Extra clues:
0901 322 5609
**Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

Today's solution:
0907 181 2573
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS
1 Unwise (11)
9 Pinch (3)
10 Enchant (9)
11 Build (5)
13 Chronicler (7)
14 Shock (6)
16 Pious (6)
18 Handbill (7)
19 Attack (5)
20 Garment-making (9)
21 Self (3)
22 Weighty (11)

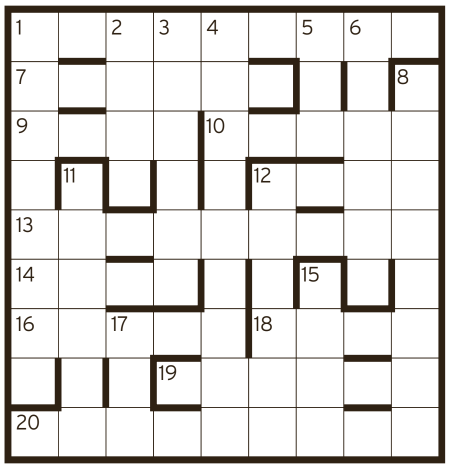
DOWN
2 Doze (3)
3 Unsuitable (5)
4 Interior (6)
5 Copy (7)
6 Of one mind (9)
7 Barrenness (11)
8 Reinstatement (11)
12 Efflux (9)
15 Yarrow (7)
17 Endeavour (6)
19 Should (5)
21 Age (3)

Solution tomorrow

Stuck on the puzzle? Call **0905 789 4188** to hear individual clues or the full solution

Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. Service provider Spoke Ltd - **Helpline 0333 202 3390*

SMALL CROSSWORD



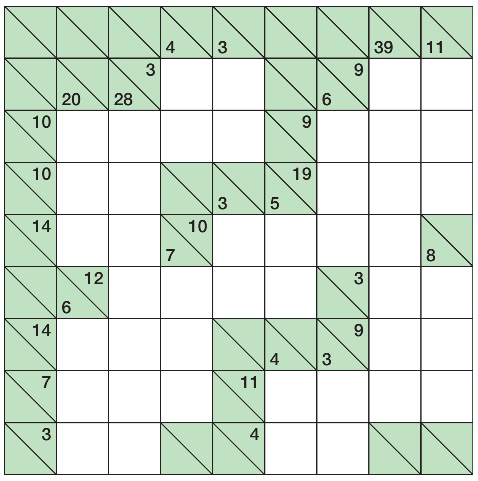
ACROSS
1 Cautiously (9)
7 Choice (6)
9 Top of a house (4)
10 Weekly pay (5)
12 Grain store (4)
13 English city (9)
14 Greek equivalent of Cupid (4)
16 Sharp pain (5)
18 Put one's feet up (4)
19 Purloin (6)
20 Disparages (9)

DOWN
1 Stupid (8)
2 Particle of matter (4)
3 Long firearms (6)
4 Utter or complete (9)
5 Canine (3)
6 Stay under the radar (3,3)
8 East soil (anag.) (8)
11 Moral goodness (6)
12 Ghost (6)
15 Touch (4)
17 Sick (3)

Solution tomorrow

For today's solution call:
0907 181 2582
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

KAKURO



Fill each sequence of blank squares using the numbers 1-9. Each sequence – across and down – must total the number in the shaded box at the beginning or top of each line. A number may be repeated in each line but NOT in a sequence.

Solution tomorrow

CROSS DOUBT

Target times: Average: **20 mins**
Good: **16 mins** Excellent: **12 mins**

Stuck? Call for a clue
0901 322 5601
Halve your Target Time!

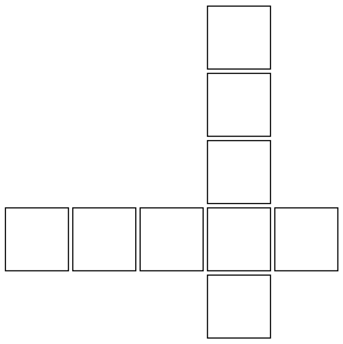
Today's solution
0901 322 5607
Both today's words in a moment!

**Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

Can you make two common five-letter words from the nine letters given, using each letter only once? You can – but only if one letter features in both words in the squares on the right. There's at least one way to do it, and you have to have the right letter at the crossover – but which one is it?

See if you can find the answer within our target time. If you need help, ring our clue-line below to find out the crossover letter. **Solution tomorrow**

A C E E F K O P R



Puzzles

WIN £250

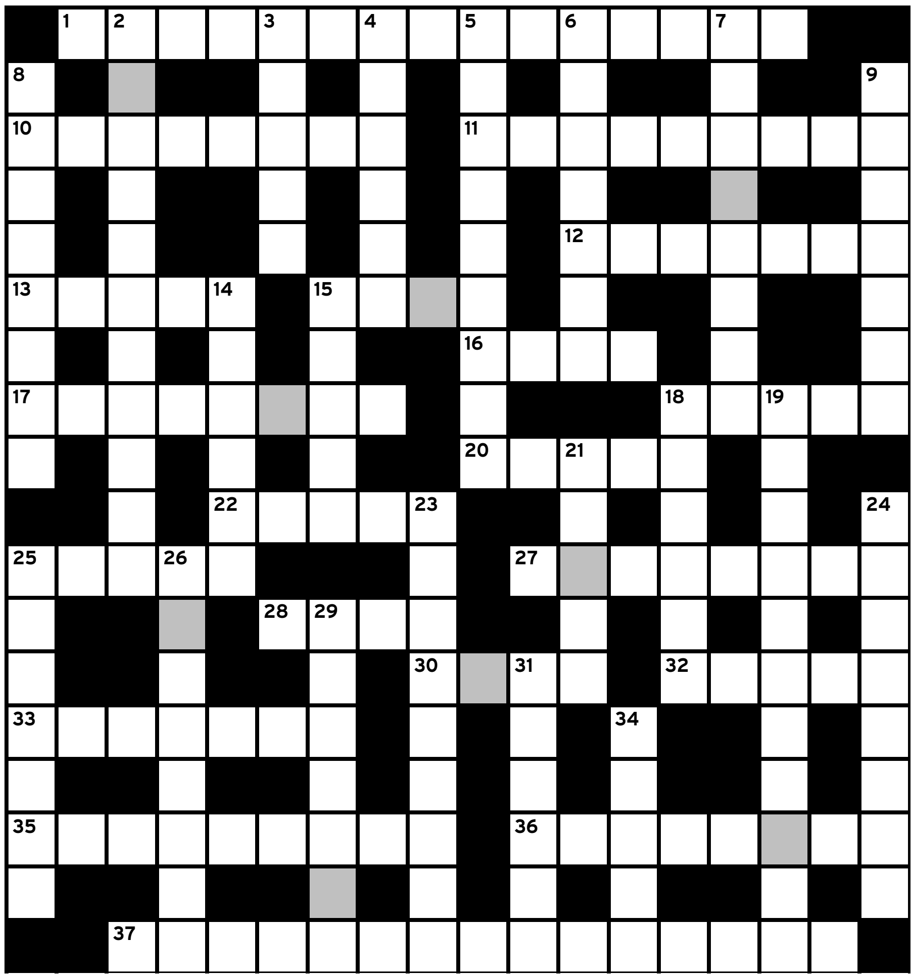
BIG MONDAY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Cruel one-eyed proprietor of the school (Dotheboys Hall) attended by Charles Dickens's Nicholas Nickleby (8,7)
10 Of or relating to geese (8)
11 Wife of protagonist Gabriel von Eisenstein in the 1874 operetta Die Fledermaus by 'Waltz King' Johann Strauss II (9)
12 Popular folk dance of 19th-century Bavaria, Austria and Switzerland, traditionally performed in slow triple time (7)
13 Maurice ___, French composer of works including the ballets Daphnis And Chloë (1912) and Boléro (1928) (5)
15 Sparkling white wine produced from the Moscato Bianco grape in the NW Italy's Piedmont region (4)
16 Common name for the Eurasian heather plant (Calluna vulgaris), from Old Norse (4)
17 Chemical element 51, whose sulphide form is the principal component of the eye cosmetic kohl (8)
18 Capital and largest city of Cape Verde, on the southern coast of Santiago island (5)
20 SE Asian dish of marinated meat or other ingredients on wooden skewers, typically served with a spicy peanut sauce (5)
22 First month of the Jewish religious year, commencing on 19 March in 2026 (5)
25 Mythical king of Crete from whom the island's Bronze Age civilisation is named (5)
27 & 32 Across British composer whose only published work (under the pseudonym Arthur de Lulli) is the 1877 waltz Chopsticks (8,5)
28 Second-largest island of Hawaii, known as the Valley Isle (4)
30 Tibetan equivalent of the Sanskrit term guru, variously translated as 'superior one' and 'high mother' (4)
32 See 27
33 Greatest lower bound of a mathematical set whose lowest upper bound is the supremum (7)
35 Mathematical operation to simplify multiplication and division, developed by Scottish mathematician John Napier in 1814 (9)
36 Main structural protein of the body's fibrous connective tissue, which yields gelatine when boiled (8)
37 Best-selling 1989 memoir by British businessman and French émigré Peter Mayle (1,4,2,8)

DOWN

2 Opposite of hibernation, in which an organism is dormant during hot weather (11)
3 Anthropomorphic cat created by US comic-book artist Robert Crumb in 1959 (5)
4 Small monkey of southern Asia also known as the bandar; Macaca mulatta (6)
5 Technical term for the cone of a coniferous plant, extended to cone-shaped structures such as the fruit of the hop (9)
6 20th letter of the Greek alphabet, derived from the Phoenician letter vav, or waw ('hook') (7)
7 Rangifer tarandus, family Cervidae, native to arctic regions of Greenland, Europe and Asia (8)
8 First and only Roman emperor captured in battle, by Persian king Shapur I in AD 260 (8)
9 Transcaucasian country on the Black Sea whose local name is Sakartvelo (7)
14 Capital of the Sarthe department in NW France, noted for its annual 24-hour endurance car race (2,4)
15 Patron saint of virgins, martyred under Roman emperor Diocletian in AD 304; feast day, 21 January (5)
18 In ancient Greece, the title of the priestess of Apollo at Delphi who transmitted the oracles (6)
19 1962-1983 BBC children's television programme chiefly hosted by Johnny Morris (6,5)
21 Sword guard on Japanese weapons such as the katana, typically made of iron and highly ornamented (5)
23 US dramatist whose works include The Odd Couple (1965) and The Dinner Party (2000) (4,5)
24 Name shared by the largest islands of the Scottish Shetland and Orkney groups (8)
25 Technical name for the upper jaw, fused to the mandible (lower jaw) and cranium (7)
26 In heraldry, a simple geometric shape such as a fess, chief, cross etc. on a coat of arms (8)
29 Instrument for measuring direct or alternating electric current in a circuit in amperes (7)
31 Formerly, a dealer in fine textile fabrics such as silks and velvets (6)
34 Villainous Soviet general played by Steven Berkoff in the 1983 James Bond film Octopussy (5)



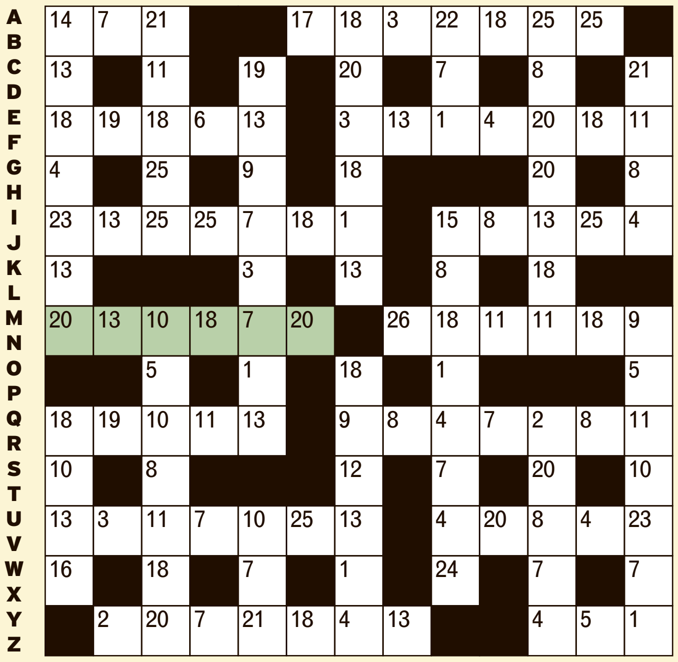
NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

STOP THE CLOCK

THE GREAT ALPHAPUZZLE™ TIME CHALLENGE



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION Across: Timid, Wistful, Equip, Seminar, Eat, Rude, Agony, BRIDE, Vixen, Gauze, Ride, Wok, Leotard, Noise, Splotch, Wheat. **Down:** Theory, Stylus, Moulder, Ghoul, Dope, Adjutant, Star, Lewd, Symbolic, Know, Fancy, Edifice, Larder, Behest.

WIN £100

25 MINUTES

Can you beat today's time?

TACKLE the Alphapuzzle™ Challenge – and be in with a chance of a £100 cash prize. FIRST, call the number below and note today's CLUE LETTERS and your unique PIN NUMBER to set your personal stop-watch running. Then, use the clue letters to work out the word in the green squares. When you crack the mystery word, call again and enter your pin number to STOP THE CLOCK. Winner selected at random from all correct entrants who beat the 25-minute Target Time. Each grid number represents a different letter. All 26 letters of the alphabet are used.

Solution next Monday

0907 181 2908

YOUR PIN No. _ _ _ _ _ _

**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. Lines close 23:59 every Sunday.*

£100 Winner (2 March):
P Winter, Wellington.

TO WIN £250 CASH!

read down the letters in the highlighted squares to reveal the mystery word.

TO ENTER CALL: 0904 161 1601

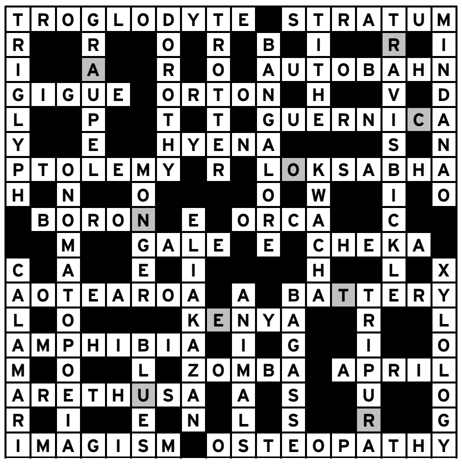
(£1.50 per call plus network extras)

Leave your answer and details, or text BIGXWORD followed by a space, your answer, name and address to 88833 (texts cost £1.50 plus your standard network rate) or just complete the crossword correctly and send it to: Daily Express, Prize Crossword (No 1144), PO Box 8694, Derby DE1 9TW Competition closes Friday, March 20, 2024 at 11:59pm. Winner picked at random from all entry routes after close date. NEED HELP? Call 0904 161 1602 for five extra clues! *Calls are £1.50 plus your telephone company's network access charge.
*SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390.
For any postal enquiries, call this helpline.

BIG MONDAY CROSSWORD SOLUTION AND WINNER

Monday March 2

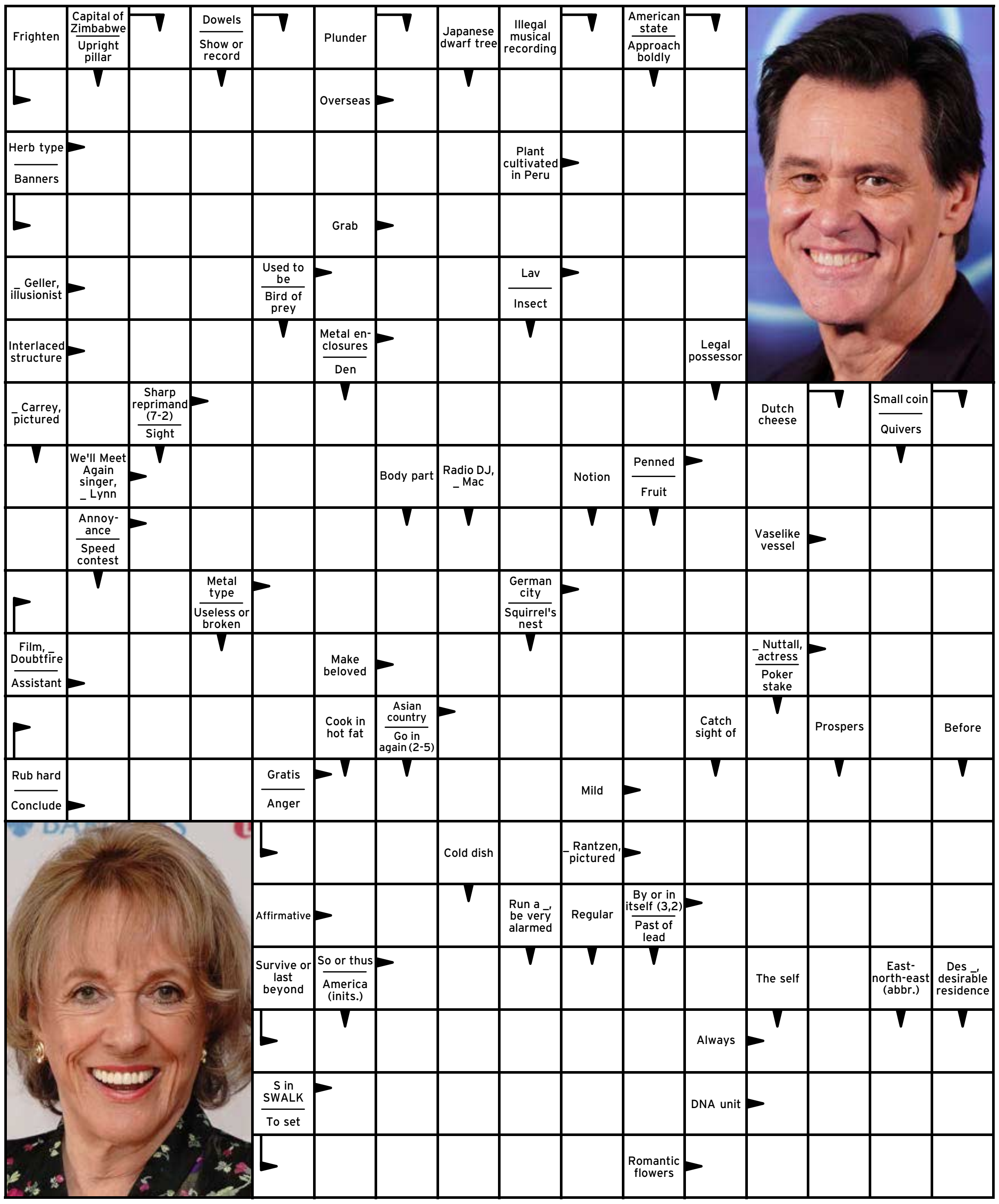
£250 WINNER:
R Tyler, Surrey.



ARROW-WORD

Arrow-words are like crosswords, but the clues are printed inside squares on the grid. Write your answers in the blank squares in the direction indicated by the arrows.

Solution tomorrow


Frighten
Capital of Zimbabwe
Upright pillar
Dowels
Show or record
Plunder
Japanese dwarf tree
Illegal musical recording
American state
Approach boldly
Overseas
Herb type
Banners
Plant cultivated in Peru
Grab
_ Geller, illusionist
Used to be
Bird of prey
Lav
Insect
Interlaced structure
Metal en-closures
Den
Legal possessor
_ Carrey, pictured
Sharp reprimand (7-2)
Sight
Dutch cheese
Small coin
Quivers
We'll Meet Again singer, _ Lynn
Body part
Radio DJ, _ Mac
Notion
Penned
Fruit
Annoy-ance
Speed contest
Vaselike vessel
Metal type
Useless or broken
German city
Squirrel's nest
Film, _ Doubtfire
Assistant
Make beloved
_ Nuttall, actress
Poker stake
Cook in hot fat
Asian country
Go in again (2-5)
Catch sight of
Prospers
Before
Rub hard
Conclude
Gratis
Anger
Mild
Cold dish
_ Rantzen, pictured
Affirmative
Run a _, be very alarmed
Regular
By or in itself (3,2)
Past of lead
Survive or last beyond
So or thus
America (inits.)
The self
East-north-east (abbr.)
Des _, desirable residence
Always
S in SWALK
To set
DNA unit
Romantic flowers

WORDSEARCH

E	Q	L	T	E	U	S	T	E	R	F	L	E	O	M
S	K	K	O	D	R	O	F	X	E	W	G	E	X	W
B	C	W	O	C	S	N	P	K	X	R	Y	L	Q	F
A	I	P	Y	S	H	P	K	G	A	R	X	B	A	Y
R	W	W	D	O	H	N	D	V	O	D	Z	M	Y	L
M	S	I	W	N	E	C	E	M	S	C	W	A	F	A
O	I	T	K	K	R	S	R	S	A	I	V	N	N	N
U	H	G	U	O	E	E	K	R	S	O	J	S	P	M
T	C	U	M	N	B	G	D	H	B	N	T	B	W	N
H	E	E	D	O	H	I	T	C	Y	R	Z	W	A	S
D	R	D	T	V	G	Y	O	U	U	Z	J	Z	L	R
A	I	G	U	A	L	W	Y	T	K	G	L	O	T	P
R	T	D	N	B	E	K	H	F	I	L	E	Y	B	U
T	G	Y	E	S	L	E	S	E	A	C	O	A	X	Z
L	T	H	G	I	R	B	D	U	C	K	R	I	K	R

LIFEBOAT STATIONS

Find all the terms listed below in the grid.

Solution tomorrow

AMBLE ● ANSTRUTHER ● BARMOUTH
BLYTH ● BUDE ● CARDIGAN ● CHISWICK
COWES ● CROMER ● DART ● FILEY
GRAVESEND ● KIRKCUDBRIGHT
LOCH NESS ● MOELFRE ● SELSEY
TOBERMORY ● WEXFORD

FRIDAY'S SOLUTIONS

THE ALPHABEATER

Black squares: 4, 5, 6, 11, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 32, 33, 38.
Across: Stiff, Drink, Joist, Formulaic, Ply, Blush, Idea, Axle, Scold, Jag, Dishonour, Yodel, Quota, Exams. **Down:** Scowled, Pique, Bag, Fitful, Topaz, Harpsichord, Odium, Larynx, Wad, Anvil, Leavers.

THE ALPHAPUZZLE

Across: Russet, Salary, Raw, Jibe, Raze, Equator, Desk, Yarn, Camel, Cold, Kilo, Often, Adds, Hove, Textile, Purr, Wage, Tot, Settee, Saddle.
Down: Dacha, Unite (clue), Deuce, Solid, Sleek, Strut, Trauma, Fixate, Mat, Swathe, Edicts, Lorry, Hewed, Amino, Razor, Vigil, Noose.

TV CROSSWORD

Across: 5 Kian, **7** Ashton, **8** Moira, **11** Baker, **12** Peep Show, **13** Anna, **15** Days, **16** Burstyn, **17** Meat, **18** Clunes, **21** Kaye, **22** Naya.
Down: 1 Isla, **2** Horrid, **3** Rose, **4** Daphne, **5** Kennedy, **6** Anya, **9** Upsy Daisy, **10** Owusu, **14** Susan, **17** Monk, **19** Len, **20** Ena.

TV show: Sandokan

ARROW-WORD

Across: Brides, Full, Joel, Blag, Joe, Shut, Lest, Ana, Data, Six, Tire, Carlyle, Reds, Grantham, Ali, Tint, Stilt, Erie, Hod, Geyser, Cos, Piano, Robert, Bye, Len, Erred, Ninths, Ape.
Down (left to right): A-ha, Rat, E.coli, Lifebelt, Reality, Ben, Dull, Earl, Nil, Spent, Gel, Ass, Yet, Their, Slights, Orates, Iterated, Taxi, Emir, Cobra, Rod, Nico, Yep, Are, Site, Suede.
Shaded letters: John Lennon

WORDS

SYRUP

MUDDLESOME

Martina Navratilova
Lindsay Davenport
Marion Bartoli

CLOCK-WISE

Leda, Dame, Mead, Adam, Amid, Idle

QUIZ OF THE WEEK

1 Madness, **2** Red, **3** Fulham, **4** Escape, **5** Chancel, **6** Rolling Stones, **7** Yvette Cooper, **8** Australian, **9** Sir Winston Churchill, **10** Manhattan.

DITLOIDS

1 2 Bites of the Cherry,
2 16 Main Bodies of Water in the Lake District,
3 4 Squares on a Battenburg Cake,
4 3 Legs on a Tripod,
5 28 Days Later Directed by Danny Boyle,
6 Around the World in 80 Days by Jules Verne

TRIVIA WORDSEARCH

1 Cetus, **2** Tolstoy, **3** Jane Porter, **4** Rommel, **5** William Blake, **6** Die Fledermaus, **7** Bergman, **8** Richard Harris, **9** Gromit, **10** Falklands War

SUMTHING

8x3=24, 5x3=15, 3x9=27

SMALL CROSSWORD

Across: 1 Elephants, **7** Lame, **8** Group, **10** Tar, **11** Bonsai, **13** Off-the-peg, **14** Seraph, **16** Ava, **18** Timid, **19** Coil, **20** Emergency.
Down: 1 Elaborate, **2** Lay off, **3** Pens, **4** Ark, **5** Notepad, **6** Sprightly, **8** Go-ahead, **9** Inflame, **12** Peptic, **15** Race, **17** Sir.

CROSS DOUBT

Across: EIGHT
Down: RIVER

SUDOKU EASY

2	1	9	3	4	8	6	5	7
6	8	5	1	9	7	2	3	4
4	3	7	6	2	5	8	9	1
5	7	3	4	8	1	9	2	6
9	6	2	7	5	3	1	4	8
8	4	1	9	6	2	5	7	3
3	9	4	2	1	6	7	8	5
7	5	6	8	3	9	4	1	2
1	2	8	5	7	4	3	6	9

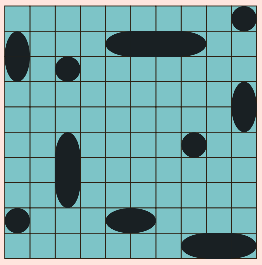
SUDOKU MEDIUM

4	7	1	6	9	2	8	3	5
3	9	5	8	1	7	2	4	6
2	8	6	3	5	4	7	1	9
9	2	7	5	8	1	4	6	3
8	1	4	2	6	3	9	5	7
5	6	3	7	4	9	1	2	8
1	5	9	4	3	8	6	7	2
6	4	2	9	7	5	3	8	1
7	3	8	1	2	6	5	9	4

SUDOKU DIFFICULT

4	1	6	3	2	7	5	9	8
5	3	9	4	6	8	7	2	1
2	8	7	5	1	9	3	6	4
3	7	2	6	4	1	8	5	9
8	5	1	7	9	2	4	3	6
9	6	4	8	3	5	2	1	7
6	4	5	1	7	3	9	8	2
7	9	8	2	5	6	1	4	3
1	2	3	9	8	4	6	7	5

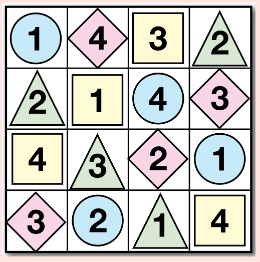
BATTLESHIPS



KAKURO

		4	1				3	1
		5	2		3	4	1	2
	8	1		2	8	9		
	3	2	4	1		8	9	2
	9	3	8		2	1	4	3
			9	3	1		8	1
	4	3	2	1		1	6	
	9	8				2	7	

KEIJO


1
4
3
2
2
1
4
3
4
3
2
1
3
2
1
4

QUICK CROSSWORD

Across: 1 Complicate, **7** Atoll, **8** Amnesia, **10** Intended, **11** Disc, **13** Unseen, **15** Turgid, **17** Arch, **18** Complain, **21** Evident, **22** Arena, **23** Interested.
Down: 1 Croft, **2** Malinger, **3** Leader, **4** Cant, **5** Testing, **6** Manipulate, **9** Accidental, **12** Supplant, **14** Section, **16** Jostle, **19** Amend, **20** Mete.

TARGET

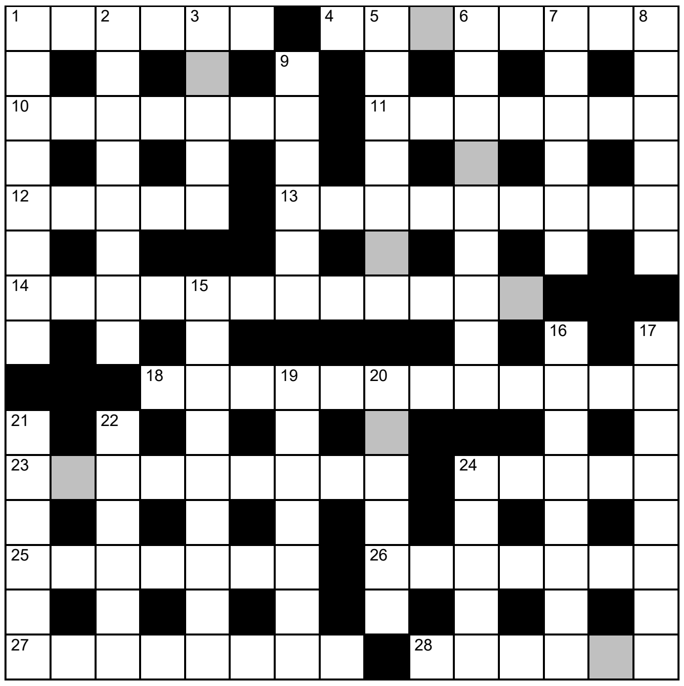
UNPLANNED
aped dupe duple leap nape neap pale paled pane panel panned peal pedal penal pend penna plan plane planed planned plea plead pled pule puled punned UNPLANNED upland

Puzzles

CRUSADER PRIZE CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Tool is not well liked, initially, by English (6)
4 Second queen reviewed church order (8)
10 Unsophisticated argument after dreadful blow (7)
11 Catch directions on a drum (7)
12 Challenged socialist attorney first (5)
13 Grumpy one, a scribe, upset, left inside (9)
14 Dropping drink, proving inadequate (7,5)
18 Service staged and made on an industrial scale (4-8)
23 Hide mistake somewhere in the field (5,4)
24 Fairy left in danger (5)
25 Space chorus provides delight (7)
26 Joyous quintet touring French east (7)
27 Isolated, ready to join a group (3,5)
28 Shrewd around river opening (6)

DOWN
1 Toughen up rock idols if going to Glastonbury at last (8)
2 Yellow animal spreading lard on your head (8)
3 Liberal ancient city I would find sensational (5)
5 Heard first person fasten facial feature (7)
6 Defence group procured a type of loan (9)
7 Bear roaming around in city is close (6)
8 Old tree transported to city (6)
9 Sounding bored, without first finding shade (6)
15 At home, a religious man finds listeners owing money (2,7)
16 Sign new to predator (8)
17 Infidelity upset true lady (8)
19 Hailed a large duet's performance outside (7)
20 Leaving after epitaph becomes a scam (3-3)
21 Cases involved going round key entrance (6)
22 A medic gets round and caught bird (6)
24 Difficult question for a model (5)



WIN £100 CASH

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN
Read down the letters in the highlighted squares to reveal the mystery word.

TO ENTER: Call **0904 161 3700** (calls cost £1.50 plus your telephone company's network access charge) and leave your answer and details, or text **DXCRUS** followed by a space, your answer, name and address details to **88833** (texts cost £1.50 plus your standard network rate). Lines close at midnight Saturday. Or send your grid containing the answer in the shaded squares by posting it to: Crusader Crossword, March 16, PO Box 8694, Derby DE1 9TW. Entries must be postmarked by March 17 at the latest. For any postal enquiries, call helpline number. SP: Spoke – 0333 202 3390.
An extra day is given for postal entries during bank holidays.

● ***One weekly winner will be the first random correct entry drawn from all entry routes after the closing date of midnight Saturday. Competition runs Sunday to Saturday. The Editor's decision is final.***

NEED HELP? Call **0904 161 1609** for 5 extra clues! Calls cost £1.50 plus your telephone company's network access charge.

NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

LAST THURSDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Easy chair, 6 Scam, 10 Sheer, 11 Angle iron, 12 Mankind, 13 Lunatic, 14 Laughing stock, 17 Learning curve, 21 Refuted, 22 Comical, 24 Bride-to-be, 25 Nacho, 26 Cage, 27 Fish slice. **DOWN:** 1 Ensemble, 2 Stern, 3 Cornish pasties, 4 Abandon, 5 Regales, 7 Caretaker, 8 Menace, 9 Reinforcements, 15 Uplifting, 16 Well done, 18 Nods off, 19 Nucleus, 20 Arabic, 23 Cacti. **Prizeword:** Senegal

TARGET

H	E	E
E	P	N
R	I	D

● *The Target uses words in the main body of Chambers 21st Century Dictionary (1999 edition)*

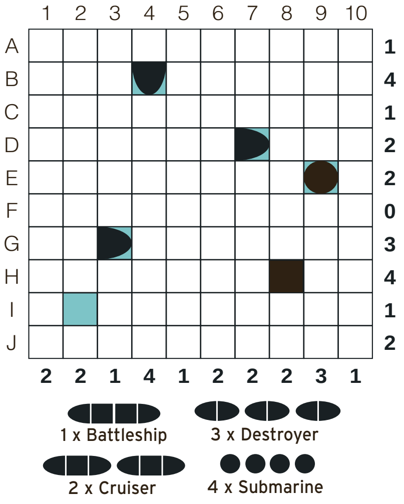
HOW many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here?
In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each must contain the centre letter and there must be at least one nine-letter word. No plurals. Verb forms ending in S permitted.

TODAY'S TARGET
Good 13; **very good** 20; **excellent** 26 **(or more).** **Solution tomorrow**

Call **0907 181 2585**
for today's Target solution
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

BATTLESHIPS

FIND where the fleet of ships shown is hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some squares have been filled in to start you off.
Solution tomorrow



1 x Battleship
3 x Destroyer
2 x Cruiser
4 x Submarine

THE ALPHABEATER

TARGET TIME: 32 minutes

CAN you crack the Alphabeater? Each grid number represents a letter – or black square. As in Alphapuzzle, every letter of the alphabet is used. But you have to complete the grid too! Use the given letters and black squares below the grid to start. The grid is 'rotationally symmetrical' – in other words, it looks the same if you turn the page upside down.
Solution tomorrow

Extra letter clues
0907 181 2560
(Deduct three minutes for each extra clue letter heard)
Full solution
0907 181 2558
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A B ~~C~~ D E F ~~G~~ H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X ~~Y~~ Z

40	23	2	15	19	4	20	2	15	4	12	5	19
23	17	18	25	26	22	2	17	12	3	8	7	8
24	1	21	3	10	34	6	37	24	7	19	9	21
12	18	15	38	4	7	4	29	1	11	4	20	36
4	29	19	28	23	6	19	4	31	23	15	19	2
38	26	7	35	39	20	39	35	7	32	23	11	25
16	19	39	19	36	3	10	9	18	21	28	19	36
9	22	4	25	35	29	4	3	4	1	1	17	32
2	15	23	31	21	36	21	2	21	27	30	35	37
6	20	18	7	26	22	8	29	14	32	23	10	12
34	11	18	26	2	21	19	30	19	9	40	20	27
13	17	19	32	23	38	4	25	35	22	34	38	5
13	12	4	23	30	19	11	33	34	12	15	23	2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
					C											■			

21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
			Y						G								■		

● Alternatively, for six Extra Letter clues to your mobile, text **DXBEAT to 64343.** Texts cost £1 plus standard network rate.

WORD BUILDER

Solution tomorrow

Answer the clues so that each word contains the same letters as the previous word, plus or minus one.

1	☐ ☐ ☐	1 Small rug
2	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	2 Side
3	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	3 Solid material
4	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	4 Cloak
5	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	5 Intended
6	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	6 Handle
7	☐ ☐ ☐	7 Adult males

THE ALPHAPUZZLE®

Alphapuzzle® tests logic and word power. Each grid number stands for a letter. Every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter or letters – below the main grid – to start. **Solution tomorrow**
DIFFICULTY: 7/10; **TARGET:** 23 mins; **CLUE:** Make big general change .

A B C D E F ~~G~~ ~~H~~ I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

■	25	■	15	■	21	■	12	■	■	■	13	■
■	2	20	16	5	12	15	2	■	25	23	23	10
■	20	■	5	■	2	■	19	■	5	■	14	■
9	4	16	1	■	1	5	4	7	14	4	12	4
■	15	■	■	■	4	■	2	■	11	■	10	■
14	20	24	14	22	10	■	9	2	4	15	6	10
■	■	■	20	■	■	■	■	■	10	■	■	■
25	5	26	4	20	15	■	21	6	2	12	12	17
■	18	■	10	■	5	■	16	■	■	■	2	■
8	5	15	5	3	4	20	2	■	10	23	8	25
■	10	■	12	■	2	■	5	■	12	■	2	■
10	6	2	17	■	10	5	20	26	5	12	1	■
■	17	■	■	■	17	■	22	■	18	■	17	■

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
					H							

14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	G											

EXTRA LETTER CLUES: 0907 181 2568*
Hear up to six Extra Letters, deduct two minutes for each clue letter heard.
FULL SOLUTION: **0907 181 2565***
ACROSS ONLY: **0907 181 2561*** / DOWN ONLY: **0907 181 2562***
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WEEKEND FOOTBALL: ACTION, REACTION & ANALYSIS

CHEER YOU GO

Palace left with red faces after Canvot's wild celebration at Gudmundsson exit

SEND OFF Canvot cheers as Gudmundsson is eventually sent off by referee Bramall

Crystal Palace 0 Leeds 0

CRYSTAL PALACE defender Jaydee Canvot launched into an extraordinary celebration when Leeds' Gabriel Gudmundsson was sent off at Selhurst Park.

Referee Thomas Bramall initially forgot he had already booked Gudmundsson when he showed him a second yellow for a challenge on Ismaila Sarr.

When he eventually brandished red, Canvot celebrated wildly behind the official while his team-mate Maxence Lacrois also cheered.

Sky Sports summariser Chris Sutton said of Canvot: “I have never seen a celebration quite like that.”

Roy Keane, with Sky Sports at Anfield, said: “That’s just the modern player.”

MATCHE REPORT: PAGES 4-5

GUNNERS JUST MAD ABOUT ABOUT THE BOY MAX – SEE PAGES 8-9

EUROSPOT

RAPHINHA GETS IN HUGE TREBLE

BARCELONA	**5**
SEVILLA	**2**

La Liga

RAPHINHA fired a hat-trick – including two penalties and a wicked deflection – as leaders Barcelona thrashed Sevilla to go four points clear.

The Brazilian chipped his first spot-kick down the middle after nine minutes before burying his next into the bottom corner 12 minutes later.

Dani Olmo looked to have put the game beyond doubt when he sidefooted home from just inside the box on 38 minutes.

A volley from Oso on the stroke of half-time gave Sevilla brief hope.

But Raphinha (above) scored six minutes after the restart with a shot that looped up off the boot of Nemanja Gudelj and over goalkeeper Odysseas Vlachodimos.

Joao Cancelo then squeezed a fifth goal between the legs of Vlachodimos on the hour to put Barca in the clear, with Djibril Sow's header in stoppage time merely a consolation.

COMEBACK WIN IS JUST AB FAB

COMO	**2**
ROMA	**1**

Serie A

CESC FABREGAS' Como came from behind to beat 10-man Roma and continue their unexpected charge for a top-four spot.

Both sides started the game level on points and Donyell Malen gave Roma the perfect start with the opener from the penalty spot after seven minutes.

But Como equalised just before the hour when Anastasios Douvikas grabbed his 10th league goal of the season. Roma were reduced to 10 men five minutes later when Wesley was sent off for a second booking.

Como made their extra man count on 79 minutes when Diego Carlos fired in the winner from close range, much to Fabregas' (above) delight.

Elsewhere, Pisa hauled themselves off the foot of the table with a 3-1 win over Cagliari in a match where both teams had a player sent off.

Eighth-placed Bologna moved four points ahead of Sassuolo following a 1-0 win over their mid-table rivals.

SO NEAR YET SO VAR FOR PEREIRA

Portuguese boss still winless this season after Ndoye goal ruled out

DESPERATE DAN
Forest winger Ndoye slots home but VAR soon intervenes (top)

NOTTM FOREST	**0**
FULHAM	**0**

BY **JONATHAN VEAL**

THEY might have climbed out of the drop zone – but this drab stalemate must go down as a missed opportunity to deliver a first Premier League win of the season for Vitor Pereira.

Forest moved above West Ham on goal difference after the City Ground bore draw and their lack of goals at home is making their survival task so much more difficult. They have now found the net just twice in seven Premier League games in front of their own fans.

Dan Ndoye had a goal disallowed for offside, while a penalty award was also chalked off after the winger had strayed the wrong side of the away defence.

It is now seven home games without a win for Forest at the City Ground, their longest run without a victory on home turf since a run of 16 between September 1998 and April 1999, a season in which they were ultimately relegated.

Boss Pereira (left) has just four points from his 14 matches in charge of Wolves and Forest.

He will now sacrifice Thursday's Europa League last-16 second-leg tie with Danes Midtjylland to prioritise next week's pivotal visit to Spurs.

Fulham still have European ambitions, but they never really threatened.

Forest fans channelled their inner Brian Clough before the game by unfurling a banner reading, "We hope anybody is not stupid enough to write us off", reimagining the famous quote from Clough during Forest's 1978-79 run to Euro-

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Decision No Goal
Offside
14 Ndoye
VAR
LENO
1

PREMIER LEAGUE

FOREST		FULHAM
46%	POSSESSION	54%
2	SHOTS ON TARGET	0
4	SHOTS OFF TARGET	3
398	TOTAL PASSES	473
80%	PASSING SUCCESS	80%
5	CORNERS	4
3	OFFSIDE	1
8	FOULS	10
0 2	CARDS	3 0

REF: Sam Barrott **ATT:** 30,013

MAN OF THE MATCH

OLA AINA

pean Cup glory. The current ambition is more humble, trying to avoid relegation back to the Championship in what has been a tumultuous season.

Scoring goals has been a big problem, but they tried to make an early impression and had a good chance inside the opening 10 minutes.

Elliot Anderson burst into the box and cut back to give himself the perfect chance to shoot, but he dragged it wide.

Fulham were not exactly banging the door down either and their best moment of the first half came when Calvin Bassey headed a free-kick straight at Matz Sels when he should have scored.

Forest had few ideas going forward, though, testing Bernd Leno with shots from outside of the box, with Morgan Gibbs-White and Nico Dominguez forcing routine saves.

There was some brief excitement at the start of the second half when substitute Ndoye was bundled over in the penalty area and referee Sam Barrott pointed to the spot, but the linesman flagged for offside.

The hosts continued on the front foot and only the woodwork denied them in the 57th minute.

Right-back Ola Aina somehow found himself as the furthest man forward and, when Murillo picked him out, he thundered a 20-yard shot that rattled the crossbar.

Ndoye's inability to stay onside cost Forest again in the 63rd minute.

The Switzerland international was played in by Neco Williams and he coolly slotted past Leno, but VAR ruled his heel was offside.

Fulham almost rubbed salt in the wound, but Rodrigo Munoz's shot was blocked by Aina and then Sasa Lukic's effort from the resulting corner dribbled agonisingly wide.

Forest's big chance came in the 88th minute but Taiwo Awoniyi dragged his shot wide.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (4-2-3-1): Sels; Aina, Milenkovic, Murillo, Williams; Sangare, Anderson (McAtee 88); Dominguez (Ndoye 46), Gibbs-White (Yates 74), Hudson-Odoi (Hutchinson 46); Igor Jesus (Awoniyi 63).
FULHAM (4-2-3-1): Leno; Tete, Andersen, Bassey, Robinson; Iwobi, Berge (Cairney 78); Wilson (Sessegnon 91), King (Lukic 63), Bobb (Chukwueze 62); Jimenez (Rodrigo Muniz 62).

PREMIER TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arsenal	31	21	7	3	61	22	70
Man City	30	18	7	5	60	28	61
Man Utd	30	15	9	6	54	41	54
Aston Villa	30	15	6	9	40	37	51
Liverpool	30	14	7	9	49	40	49
Chelsea	30	13	9	8	53	35	48
Brentford	29	13	5	11	44	40	44
Everton	30	12	7	11	34	35	43
Newcastle	30	12	6	12	43	43	42
Bournemouth	30	9	14	7	44	46	41
Fulham	30	12	5	13	40	43	41
Brighton	30	10	10	10	39	36	40
Sunderland	30	10	10	10	30	35	40
Crystal Palace	30	10	9	11	33	35	39
Leeds	30	7	11	12	37	48	32
Tottenham	30	7	9	14	40	47	30
Nottm Forest	30	7	8	15	28	43	29
West Ham	30	7	8	15	36	55	29
Burnley	30	4	8	18	32	58	20
Wolves	30	3	7	20	22	52	16

SPURS MY PRIORITY

BY **JONATHAN VEAL**

NOTTINGHAM FOREST boss Vitor Pereira will prioritise next week's crunch clash with Spurs ahead of the Europa League after his side dropped two points at home to Fulham.

Forest head to Danish side Midtjylland on Thursday hoping to overturn a 1-0 first-leg deficit in the last 16.

But the Premier League visit to Tottenham could have a massive bearing on their relegation fate and Pereira admits he will select his side accordingly in midweek.

"I need to rotate the team because it is the third game after three days," he said after seeing his side climb out of the relegation zone.

"I need to go there with the spirit to fight for the qualification, of course. But if I don't rotate the team against Tottenham after three days again, travel again, it would not be possible to compete.

"And, of course, Tottenham is an important game because it's another chance for us to get points. But we can win against Tottenham and after if we lose the games until the end of the season relegation will happen.

"Of course it's important, but the game after Tottenham has the same importance."

Fulham still have European aspirations and boss Marco Silva said: "We are in this moment of the season when all the teams, it doesn't matter what they are fighting for, are going to make every single game much more difficult to get three points."

VITEK'S BIG SAVE IS NO MEAN FEET

MIDDLESBROUGH 1
BRISTOL CITY 1

Championship

BY **JASON MELLOR**

RADEK VITEK'S size 12s stuck the boot into Middlesbrough's stuttering Premier League push.

Adam Randell's stoppage-time header ensured homesick Boro frittered away more precious promotion points at the Riverside.

But the modest Bristol City midfielder insisted he was not the hero after claiming his third goal of the season with the Robins' first effort on target – instead singling out Vitek's heroics for helping to stem a four-game losing streak.

City's 6ft 6in Manchester United loan keeper (above) produced a stunning save to deny Alan Browne's follow-up with his foot before smothering the ball on the line.

Randall said: "Radek's size 12 boot stopping it on the line like that was incredible because I thought it was in.

"We can be happy and proud with that result because coming into the game everyone knew we hadn't been getting the results we wanted, but I thought we really dug in.

"Scoring was a hell of a moment and I really enjoyed it. The celebration was class and it was great to reward the fans for their travels and their effort to support us.

"We've got some key players missing and it's not easy to fill in some of those positions, so the lads who came in did well."

Sub Leo Castledine opened his Boro account after the break, but the Teessiders could not hold on for a win to leave them with just three points from the last four home games.

They had the consolation of cutting leaders Coventry's advantage to seven points.

Frustrated boss Kim Hellberg said: "It was a demolition and it looked like there was only one team on the pitch.

"You would have thought it was teams from different levels playing each other, but it wasn't enough to win. It's a tough spell."

WAR BABIES THE FORGOTTEN CHILDREN OF WWII
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AMAZON

IRKED LIONS 'WILL KEEP ON FIGHTING'

MILLWALL 1

BLACKBURN 2

Championship

MIFFED Millwall skipper Jake Cooper is looking for a perfect Portman Road pick-me-up.

Lions boss Alex Neil (below) and his men missed a golden chance to climb into the automatic promotion places as they stumbled to a shock defeat by struggling Blackburn.

Sub Luke Cundle's spectacular overhead kick put the hosts ahead but their hopes of a fifth straight win were hit when Zak Sturge saw red for bringing down Yuki Ohashi as Rovers staged a late smash-and-grab raid.

Millwall trail third-place Ipswich on goal difference and ahead of Saturday's sold-out Suffolk clash, 31-year-old centre-back Cooper (above) said: "It's a great one now for us – one you'd really pick out at the start of the season.

"If we want to be at the top end of the table we have to go to places like this and really perform, so it's exciting for us and the fans. I'm looking forward to seeing a packed-out away end.

"It feels like we were a little bit hard done-by on the red card. We had full ascendency in the game until that decision, which I'm not sure was the right one.

"Before that, we got the goal and it looked like it was going to be two or three but unfortunately that's how football goes sometimes. We have to take it on the chin.

"We've been in great form and we can't be too hard on ourselves. We're doing the best we can to stay up where we are in the table and we'll keep fighting until the very end."

A late double from Mathias Jorgensen sealed a first win in five to push Rovers three points clear of the drop zone.

Boss Michael O'Neill said: "It's a massive three points after a challenging week. It's hard when you go behind in this division but we made full use of the extra man and showed real character and quality to win the game."

THE GUD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY

Bizarre red card for Gabriel as Dom has off day from the spot

EARLY GUDBYE
Gudmundsson gets his marching orders from ref Thomas Bramall

CRYSTAL PALACE 0
LEEDS UNITED 0

BY **ANDY SIMS**

DOMINIC CALVERT-LEWIN put his hands to his face after missing a crucial first-half penalty.

But 10-man Leeds still left London with an important point in the battle to stay in the Premier League.

They are now winless in their last 12 visits to the capital and played the whole of the second half a man down after Gabriel Gudmundsson was dismissed.

Yet it could be a valuable point as well, with Leeds having been dragged back into the relegation dogfight after five matches without a victory.

A forgettable encounter only briefly came to life just before half-time when Calvert-Lewin fired his spot-kick wide, managers Oliver Glasner and Daniel Farke were both booked and Gudmundsson was sent off.

Leeds could have taken the lead in the 15th minute when Ismaila Sarr made a mess of a headed clearance to allow Brenden Aaronson a free shot

PEN AND STINK

Calvert-Lewin cannot believe it after missing with a penalty (below)

PREMIER LEAGUE

CRYSTAL PALACE		LEEDS
66%	POSSESSION	34%
0	SHOTS ON TARGET	3
5	SHOTS OFF TARGET	4
448	TOTAL PASSES	221
79%	PASSING SUCCESS	62%
8	CORNERS	3
5	OFFSIDE	2
12	FOULS	11
0 🟥 0 🟨	CARDS	0 🟨 1 🟥

REF: Thomas Bramall **ATT:** 25,155

MAN OF THE MATCH

JOE RODON

at goal. The American should have hit the target at the very least, but he dragged his shot across goal and wide.

With Dean Henderson missing through illness, Walter Benitez made a Premier League debut in goal for Crystal Palace.

The 33-year-old Argentinian, whose last appearance was the humiliating FA Cup defeat at Macclesfield, made a nervy start and was fortunate not to step behind his own goal-line after catching a header from Calvert-Lewin.

It had been a largely benign first half, but it exploded into life as the break approached.

First, Palace captain Will Hughes inexplicably handled a corner from Anton Stach to concede a penalty.

Calvert-Lewin stepped up and sent Benitez the wrong way, but unfortunately for Leeds he also sent the ball the wrong side of the left-hand post.

Then Leeds' Jaka Bijol – who was already on a yellow card for a needless handball – was lucky to escape a second booking for a body-check on Sarr.

Instead, referee Thomas Bramall showed yellow cards to increasingly frustrated bosses Glasner and Farke.

Farke's mood darkened further when Gudmundsson was booked for a nasty foul on Sarr.

Bramall appeared to have forgotten showing Gudmundsson (left) a yellow 20 minutes earlier, but he eventually remembered – or was reminded by someone – and brandished the red.

The dismissal brought much amusement to Palace defender Jaydee Canvot, who launched into a remarkable celebration.

With his early bath, Gudmundsson became the first Leeds player to be shown two yellow cards in the first half of a Premier League match since Mark Viduka in May 2004 against Bolton.

Palace chief Glasner sent on Jean-Philippe Mateta early in the second half, with the French striker getting a distinctly mixed reception on his first Premier League appearance since a failed attempt to join AC Milan in January.

He almost won the doubters over by converting a cross from Sarr, but Leeds goalkeeper Karl Darlow managed to claw the ball behind.

Leeds' sense of injustice was only heightened when Brennan Johnson, already on a card, tripped James Justin and also stayed on the pitch.

Yet they were glad he was still on moments later when Jefferson Lerma bundled the ball home, only for Johnson to be flagged offside.

PALACE (3-4-2-1): Benitez; Richards, Lacroix, Canvot (Kamada 80); Johnson (Pino 80), Hughes (Wharton 60), Lerma, Mitchell; Sarr, Guessand, Strand Larsen (Mateta 60).

LEEDS (3-4-1-2): Darlow; Rodon, Bijol, Struijk; Justin, Stach, Ampadu, Gudmundsson; Aaronson (Bogle 46); Nmecha (Gruev 46), Calvert-Lewin.

Fuming Farke felt like 'the world' was against his men

BY **ANDY SIMS**

DANIEL FARKE felt Leeds paid the price for two crazy minutes when "the whole world" was against his side.

Moments before half-time, Leeds striker Dominic Calvert-Lewin missed a penalty and full-back Gabriel Gudmundsson was controversially sent off for a foul on Crystal Palace forward Ismail Sarr.

Referee Thomas Bramall forgot he had already shown Gudmundsson a yellow card 20 minutes earlier, and only after someone told him did he brandish the red.

Leeds boss Farke fumed: "It was doubtful if it was a foul. It was not even close to a yellow card. There was no pace in the tackle, in the duel. It was not a tactical foul. And most disappointing is more or less that he has forgotten that this player was already on the yellow card and was then himself surprised that this decision means a sending-off."

The madness began in the 43rd minute when Palace captain Will Hughes inexplicably handled a corner from Anton Stach to concede a penalty, only for Calvert-Lewin to fire the spot-kick wide.

Bramall also showed yellow cards to increasingly frustrated bosses Farke and Palace's Oliver Glasner before giving Gudmundsson an early bath. "It was a day that proved why I would trust my players with my life," added Farke. "It's so difficult, in two minutes you feel that the whole world is against you."

THE PRICE IS RIGHT NOW FOR BAGGIES

WEST BROM	3
HULL CITY	0

Championship

ISAAC PRICE reckons it's third time lucky for West Brom's managerial merry-go-round this season.

Northern Ireland international Price (above) grabbed his seventh goal of the campaign to add to earlier strikes from Josh Maja and Aune Heggebo as Albion ended their 13-match wait for a league win in style.

After helping the Baggies climb out of the bottom three with only his second goal since October, the 22-year-old midfielder paid tribute to caretaker boss James Morrison – who has picked-up the pieces after disastrous stints in charge from rookie bosses Ryan Mason and Eric Ramsay left the club fighting for survival.

Price admitted: "A big part of my goal celebration was relief. I've had so many chances this season, I could have had 15 goals but I've not been clinical enough and it's cost us in a lot of games so to score means the world.

"It's hard being down at the bottom but we're building on something and the results are starting to show.

"I've had a really difficult period where I know I've not been good enough and it's probably been the same for a lot of the lads. When you're playing every week and things aren't going your way it takes its toll. Under Mozza we have new life and the players have bought into what he wants.

"A result like this has been coming. It's been difficult with the change of management but everyone loves Mozza. He's come in and done a great job and the respect he's got here is massive.

"Football is all about confidence and he's restored that. He's given us belief to go and play and in the last two games you'd look at us and say we're a completely different team with the risks we're taking."

Hull were up against it after an early red card for Charlie Hughes as the Tigers' Championship play-off hopes took a blow with a third defeat in four. Boss Sergej Jakirovic admitted: "The red card came from nothing and it was bad from Charlie but overall West Brom were better than us."

SOUCEK'S CELEBRATIONS ARE CUT SHORT

BY **STEVE JUDGE**

TOMAS SOUCEK planned to celebrate being out of the drop zone for the first time in three months by driving his wife crazy.

The West Ham midfielder was as deliriously happy about finally leaving the ground out of the bottom three as the fans on their way out of Stratford singing, "Tottenham Hotspur we are coming for you."

Nottingham Forest's home draw yesterday against Fulham soon returned the Hammers to the bottom three but Soucek (inset) said: "For today [Saturday], we are out of the relegation spots. It is a nice moment for us but we need to keep going. It's a great point. I know that the other teams play Sunday.

"Yeah, I will watch their games. I'm really a football person, I like to watch as many games as possible.

"So my wife is sometimes going crazy. It's just fun to watch for me. I'm a player but I am also a football fan. But the main thing is for us to focus on ourselves for the next two months."

Soucek's good mood was down to Konstantinos Mavropanos. The Greece centre-half followed up heading in the Hammers' first-half leveller, by being levelled by an Erling Haaland thunderbolt late on.

"Taking one for the team" is how keeper Mads Hermansen put it, as Mavrapanos was left with a shiner as a souvenir.

And Soucek added: "He's a strong guy, so he can take it. He was so happy. He broke the shot and got the goal as well. All the players have to fight like that for their lives."

BEWARE

PREMIER LEAGUE

WEST HAM		MAN CITY
29%	POSSESSION	71%
1	SHOTS ON TARGET	6
0	SHOTS OFF TARGET	11
304	TOTAL PASSES	755
1	CORNERS	15
3	OFFSIDE	2
14	FOULS	5
🟥 0 🟨 2	CARDS	🟨 2 🟥 0

REF: Michael Oliver **ATT:** 62,459

MAN OF THE MATCH
KONSTANTINOS MAVROPANOS

LONG HAAL
Out-of-form striker Haaland has scored just twice since January

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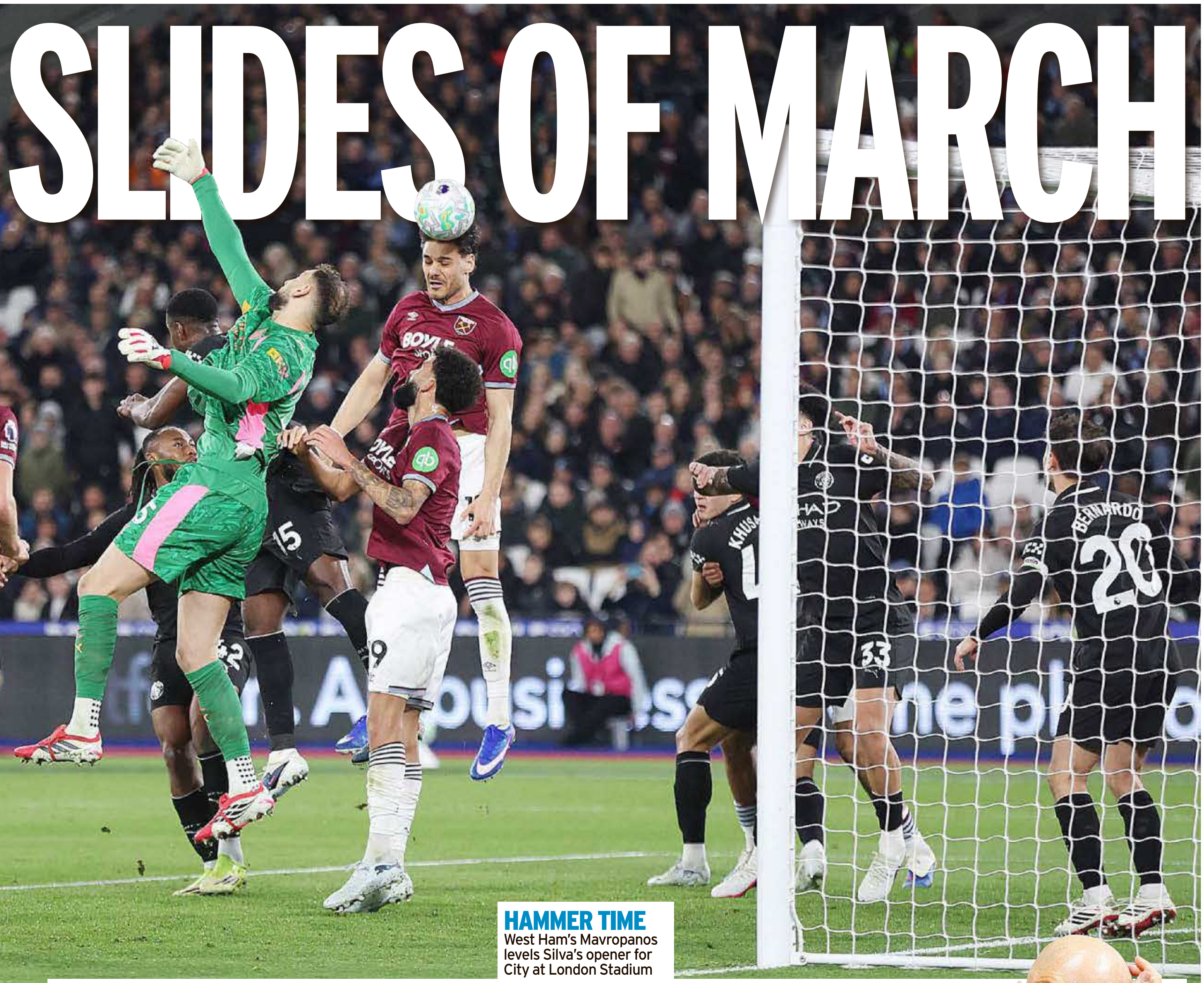
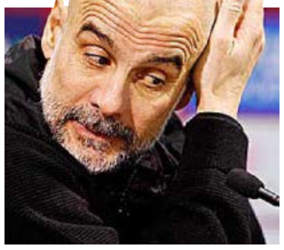
SLIDES OF MARCH



HAMMER TIME
West Ham's Mavropanos levels Silva's opener for City at London Stadium

WEST HAM	1
MAN CITY	1

Guardiola is facing second season without trophy after latest setback



BY **STEVE JUDGE**

THIS was always going to be a defining eight days in Manchester City's season – and a test of Pep Guardiola's legacy.

Long before he arrived at London Stadium, the Premier League's Caesar would have been wary of the sides of March.

Now he teeters between ushering in a successful new era and suffering back-to-back trophyless seasons for the first time in his career.

The first dagger blows have already landed.

By this time next week, the FA Cup may be the only silverware within reach.

Failure to win at West Ham has left City nine points behind leaders Arsenal in the Premier League title race.

Tomorrow, they must produce the greatest rescue act of Guardiola's reign, overturning a 3-0 first-leg deficit, to avoid a third straight Champions League elimination at the hands of Real Madrid.

Then, on Sunday, comes Wembley, and a Carabao Cup final against the Gunners that threatens to become Guardiola's 'Et tu, Mikel?' moment.

Many believe Mikel Arteta's quad chasers are the natural heirs to Guardiola's dominance, their rise now running parallel with City's vulnerability.

Midfielder Rodri knows there is no quick fix on the path to greatness.

He said: "Losing is part of the process, but we're still alive in other competitions, and we have things to fight for this year.

"I'm a player who has the experience to understand the circumstances and know that we are in a moment where we are building a team to win.

"It is not easy, it takes time, and it is not the time to point the finger at anyone. The mistake we can make is to think we are the unbelievable team that we used to be.

"We are in a process to come back. At City, you always have to win but football is not like this, we know how difficult that is."

With the likes of Kevin De Bruyne gone, this is a City team seeking a new identity.

Seven of Saturday's starting line-up made their City debuts either last season or this.

They needed six-time champion Bernardo Silva to chip them into a 31st-minute lead.

But Konstantinos Mavropanos headed in Jarrod Bowen's corner four minutes later as City dropped points from a winning position for the seventh time this season.

A lack of goals has been highlighted as the problem.

January arrivals Antoine Semenyo and Marc Guehi were off target with big chances, while an out-of-sorts Erling Haaland tested West Ham goalkeeper Mads Jorgensen only once from four efforts.

The Premier League's top scorer has just one goal from open play in 2026.

Rodri added: "It's kind of been the pattern of this season. We've struggled in that final third. We're missing that last bit… that final touch, that quality in front of goal.

"That final goal is maybe what's hurting us a lot, but in the end in football that's the most important thing, isn't it?"

Right now, this City side is unable to close games out or rise to the biggest challenges – creating history against Real Madrid or lifting a first trophy together this season feels out of reach.

Even Guardiola (above) is uncertain where this team is heading but he remains committed to building his City 2.0. He admitted: "As a team, we are still growing, but it is still not a finished business. I'm still finding the best way to have stability and consistency as a team.

"We have eight games left. We have to accept it and finish the season in the best position we can. Still we have Tuesday, we have the Premier League, we have the FA Cup.

"We have to improve, improve. As much as we improve quicker, we'll be better for the present and for the future. For next season. And this is what you have to do."

WEST HAM (3-4-3): Hermansen; Disasi, Mavrapanos, Todibo; Wan-Bissaka, Fernandes, Soucek, Diouf; Bowen (Kante 90), Pablo (Magassa 64), Castellanos (Adama 74)

MANCHESTER CITY (4-4-2): Donnarumma; Nunes, Khusanov, Guehi, Ait-Nouri (Doku 60); Semenyo (Foden 75), Rodri, O'Reilly, Silva (Reijnders 75); Marmoush (Cherki 60), Haaland

---

TOWN ARE ON TRAC DESPITE THE PRESSURE

SHEFF WED	0
IPSWICH TOWN	2

Championship

DARA O'SHEA insists Ipswich are embracing the pressure in pursuit of the Premier League promised land.

The Tractor Boys climbed to third after taking their time to dispatch the relegated Owls to make it six games unbeaten thanks to late goals from Ivan Azon (below) and a Jack Clarke penalty (he celebrates, above).

Town host fourth-place Millwall on Saturday, and have still to face second-place Middlesbrough – who they pulled to within two points of in an increasingly tense battle for automatic promotion.

O'Shea admits it's pointless trying to hide from the pressure and the Ipswich skipper said: "You can say there isn't pressure, but there is at the end of the day. The lads can feel that, we've spoken between ourselves and we're trying to keep that out and focus on what we can do.

"It's never going to be plain sailing and of course the pressure is there come the end of the season, results go your way and don't go your way... and that's football. We can't look at other results, we've got to focus on ourselves because each one of us has a massive part to play until the end of the campaign.

"It took a bit of time to get that first goal today but I'm proud of how patient we were. There have been a lot of games where we haven't been that patient and we've tried to rush things and got frustrated."

Wednesday have gone 32 games since their only league win of the campaign and are set to be the first-ever club in the top four divisions to go down with a negative points tally.

Boss Henrik Pedersen insisted: "I told the boys they should give themselves much more credit. Instead of punishing themselves, they should look at the respective salaries, what Ipswich are getting and what we're getting.

"To compete against such a strong opponent, it's amazing, and we have to be proud of that."

PAT'S HIT FOR SIX IN HUNT FOR BIG TIME

BIRMINGHAM 1

SHEFFIELD UNITED 1

Championship

PATRICK ROBERTS fears a lack of a cutting edge could kill off Birmingham's fading play-off challenge.

The Blues failed to build on Marvin Ducksch's stunning 10th goal of the season against 10-man Sheffield United to make it two wins in the last seven games and leave Chris Davies' men seven points adrift of the top six.

Jay Stansfield has come in for flak from fans after finding the net just once in the last 22 games – and ex-Sunderland winger Roberts said: "We need to be much more clinical.

"We're aiming to get promoted. Not taking chances is what's killing us and we need to put some of those away.

"It was one of those days, but we can't have too many of those because there aren't many games left.

"We need to hit the back of the net and when you struggle to do that, it's hard. We've still got the belief, so we'll do our best and see where it takes us."

After Femi Seriki's early red card, Patrick Bamford levelled before the break to earn a gritty draw for the Blades, who are set to fall short in their play-off quest after taking two points from the last three games.

Chris Wilder is angry at criticism that his players are already 'on the beach' with eight games to go, saying: "I've been disappointed with the negativity towards the players.

"If I was a 31-year-old manager and didn't want to upset people, I wouldn't say anything, but I'm way past that. It's hurt me because it's been unjust.

"I hear nonsense about the players turning it in and that they can't wait for the season to finish. That's so lazy and disrespectful to the culture of the club. We will go right to the end of the season. If it's not enough, then so be it.

"We should be closer to the play-offs, but we're not entitled to win games. Question me on tactics or team selection, but we're not pulling out of tackles and we're putting in the distances during games. We're not waiting for the end of the season."

MAX

Whizzkid's magic, ar

ONE FOR AGES
Arsenal ace Dowman salutes fans and (below) Vaughan and Owen

PREMIER LEAGUE'S YOUNGEST GOALSCORERS

14/0/2026	Arsenal	**Max Dowman** v Everton	16y 73d
10/4/2005	Everton	**James Vaughan** v Crystal Palace	16y 270d
26/12/2002	Leeds	**James Milner** v Sunderland	16y 356d
19/10/2002	Everton	**Wayne Rooney** v Arsenal	16y 360d
25/8/2025	Liverpool	**Rio Ngumoha** v Newcastle	16y 361d
25/08/2004	Arsenal	**Cesc Fabregas** v Blackburn	17y 113d
6/05/1997	Liverpool	**Michael Owen** v Wimbledon	17y 143d
5/09/1992	Tottenham	**Andy Turner** v Everton	17y 166d
5/04/2009	Man United	**Federico Macheda** v Aston Villa	17y 226d
16/12/2023	Newcastle	**Lewis Miley** v Fulham	17y 229d
23/11/2024	Arsenal	**Ethan Nwaneri** v Forest	17y 247d

KEANE REFUSES TO GIVE UP ON TOFFEES' EURO TRIP

BY **RYAN TAYLOR**

MICHAEL KEANE is adamant Everton's European dream remains on track – despite defeat at Arsenal.

The Toffees were left to lick their wounds after the hosts scored two goals to clinch all three points in the dying embers.

But Keane feels David Moyes' men gave another good account of themselves.

Toffees defender Keane (right) said: "It showed we can compete with anybody.

"We've been amazing away from home all season and we were close today again.

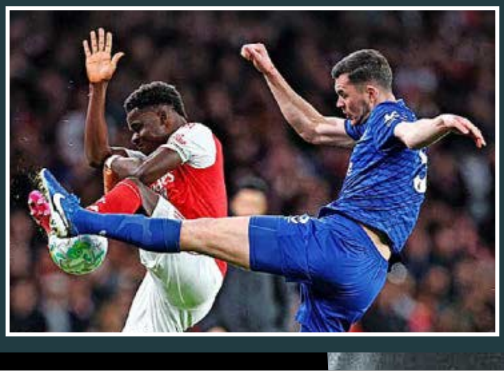
"Even with some injuries and people missing from the squad, people have come in and put in an amazing shift and played really well.

"That's the kind of mentality you need when you're trying to push and make the European places ourselves. We've got eight games to go now, so massive push."

When asked on whether European qualification is a firm and realistic target, Keane added: "Yeah, we're right in the mix.

"There's a lot of football to be played, matches to be won, so we're definitely in the mix.

"Anything could happen, there are probably three or four teams and we'll give it our best shot."



WOWMAN

nd possibly defining, moment will live long in memory

ARSENAL 2
EVERTON 0

BY **RYAN TAYLOR**

IT WAS not so much his age. It was not so much his actual goal and his cross for the opener.

It was not even so much the Premier League had a record-breaker. Above all, it was the importance.

As Mikel Arteta (left) said: "To achieve what he's done in the context of the game which he's done it in as well, it makes it even more special. I'm really happy for him."

First the facts.

At 16 years and 73 days, Max Dowman became the youngest player to score in the Premier League, his goal confirming this win to send Arsenal even further clear at the top, sliding the ball home in the 97th minute as he broke clear.

He had been on the pitch only 23 minutes and in the final 60 seconds of normal time his cross had led to striker Viktor Gyokeres, who had come on at the same time as Dowman, finally breaking the deadlock.

Now the praise.

It is not even a year since Dowman caught the eye in Singapore and Hong Kong, becoming Arsenal's second youngest-ever player during their pre-season tour.

And on this Saturday night in March, he made the type of impact on which a career can be built.

It was just his seventh appearance for the first team, and Gunners boss Arteta said: "For many years, we will remember that we were at the Emirates that night when that 16-year-old kid scored in such an important game when we were trying to win the title. That's unique.

"He deserves it. His family, and all the people at Hale End have raised him in such an incredible way.

"One thing is to raise a talent, another thing is to raise a person with such a personality and charisma to play a game with that stature in the manner that he's done it."

Gyokeres (below with Dowman) said: "When you see him play, you don't think he's 16.

"You don't think about it when he has the ball, with the composure and the confidence he plays with.

"It's incredible. To see him score that goal was amazing.

"He's been developing. He got an injury and was out for a while, so I didn't see him for a few months.

"But now he's back and he's still playing with the confidence that he did before.

"He makes a lot of right decisions when he comes on the pitch. He's an incredible and very good player."

Defender William Saliba said: "To be honest, scoring for a player who is only 16 years old, who plays like this and comes onto the pitch and can change the game, is amazing.

"He's a nice guy as well, he is humble and wants to improve every day.

"I'm so happy for him, I hope we can keep going together and winning like this."

As Dowman celebrated his goal – scored into an empty net after Jordan Pickford had come up for a corner – it was easy to see what it meant to everyone.

Those on the pitch as well as substitutes off it came dashing over to the corner to become part of the occasion.

Summed up by Gyokeres, who knew how vital his goal was but equally what Dowman scoring meant to him too.

The £64m hitman said: "It was a good goal, it was a great feeling for me to score that and for the team it was very important.

"You have to go through instincts sometimes, sometimes you just have to arrive there and I did that today.

"Then to see Max afterwards scoring that goal was almost even better.

"He's a great guy off the pitch and on the pitch you can see how he plays, he's brilliant. To see him score was very nice."

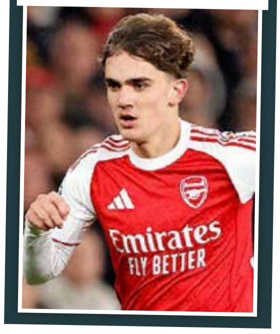
ARSENAL (4-3-3): Raya; Timber (Mosquera 38), Saliba, Gabriel, Calafiori (Hincapie 74); Zubimendi (Dowman 74), Rice, Eze; Saka, Madueke (Martinelli 61), Havertz (Gyokeres 61).
EVERTON (4-2-3-1): Pickford; Garner, O'Brien, Keane, Mykolenko; Gueye (George), Iroegbunam (Rohl 86); McNeil (Armstrong 86), Dewsbury-Hall, Ndiaye; Beto (Barry 68).

PREMIER LEAGUE

ARSENAL		EVERTON
65%	POSSESSION	35%
7	SHOTS ON TARGET	3
9	SHOTS OFF TARGET	2
581	TOTAL PASSES	321
8	CORNERS	3
2	OFFSIDE	1
11	FOULS	12
🟥 0 🟨 0	CARDS	🟨 1 🟥 0

REF: Andy Madley **ATT:** 60,176

MAN OF THE MATCH
MAX DOWMAN



FIRST OF MANY
Max Dowman slots home his record-breaking strike

JAMES FLAGS UP FEARS OF GOING DOWN

LEICESTER 1
QPR 3

Championship

JORDAN JAMES admits the clock is ticking on Leicester's Championship future.

The faltering Foxes hoisted the white flag again as they slid to a latest defeat to drop into the relegation zone, two points adrift of safety.

James' 10th goal of the season put the hosts ahead, but they were let down by familiar failings to leave them staring at League One after a single win in the last 12 games.

Time is running out to avoid back-to-back relegations and the 21-year-old Wales midfielder (above) said: "We have to reset as a group. We have no choice because time is ticking and we're running out of games.

"It's a tough time, but it wasn't good enough after 30 minutes.

"We conceded a goal and heads went down and that's happened a few times this season.

"We're waiting for the game to happen, instead of grabbing it by the scruff of the neck and going for the second goal."

Rangers had not found the net for seven hours, but scored three times in 15 minutes either side of the break to snap a four-game losing streak and finally banish any lingering relegation fears.

Harvey Vale was involved in all the goals - grabbing his third of the season before forcing Ben Nelson to slide the ball into his own net. Then, the Chelsea academy product's corner was headed in by Ronnie Edwards.

Vale said: "After the run we've been on it was really important to turn things around because we know it hadn't been good enough recently. It feels really good to repay the fans.

"We got what we deserved. We believe in ourselves and will continue to do so and personally hopefully there's more goals to come."

Centre-back Edwards said: "We have had a few poor results and performances and we had to bounce back.

"I really wanted to make sure I scored before the end of the season, so to get it today was massive."

CANNY KENNY PICKS UP THE PIECES

NORWICH 2
PRESTON 0
Championship

KENNY McLEAN could not stand by any longer after finally showing his Norwich team-mates that free-kicks are a set-piece of cake.

The Scotland midfielder had stood aside for the most part this season to let the rest of the squad try to prove their worth at dead-ball scoring opportunities.

But after one wasted free-kick too many, the 34-year-old (right) stepped up to bag a stunning second Canaries goal of the season to show his pals how it's done, adding to Ali Ahmed's early opener.

The Carrow Road skipper said: "We've had a few in that area in the last few weeks, so I've been biding my time and been giving others an opportunity. We've not managed to stick one away so I took it.

"We've been better to be honest and we'll get better again. We weren't ruthless enough in going for a third goal, so we'll learn from that." The Canaries can pull to within six points of the play-offs with a fifth straight win at in-form Southampton in midweek and McLean added: "There aren't many games left but we'll keep going and we're only going to get better."

Preston were in play-off contention at the turn of the year but are in freefall after one win in the past 12 league games.

Boss Paul Heckingbottom said: "You've always got to fight and scrap and you're never safe."

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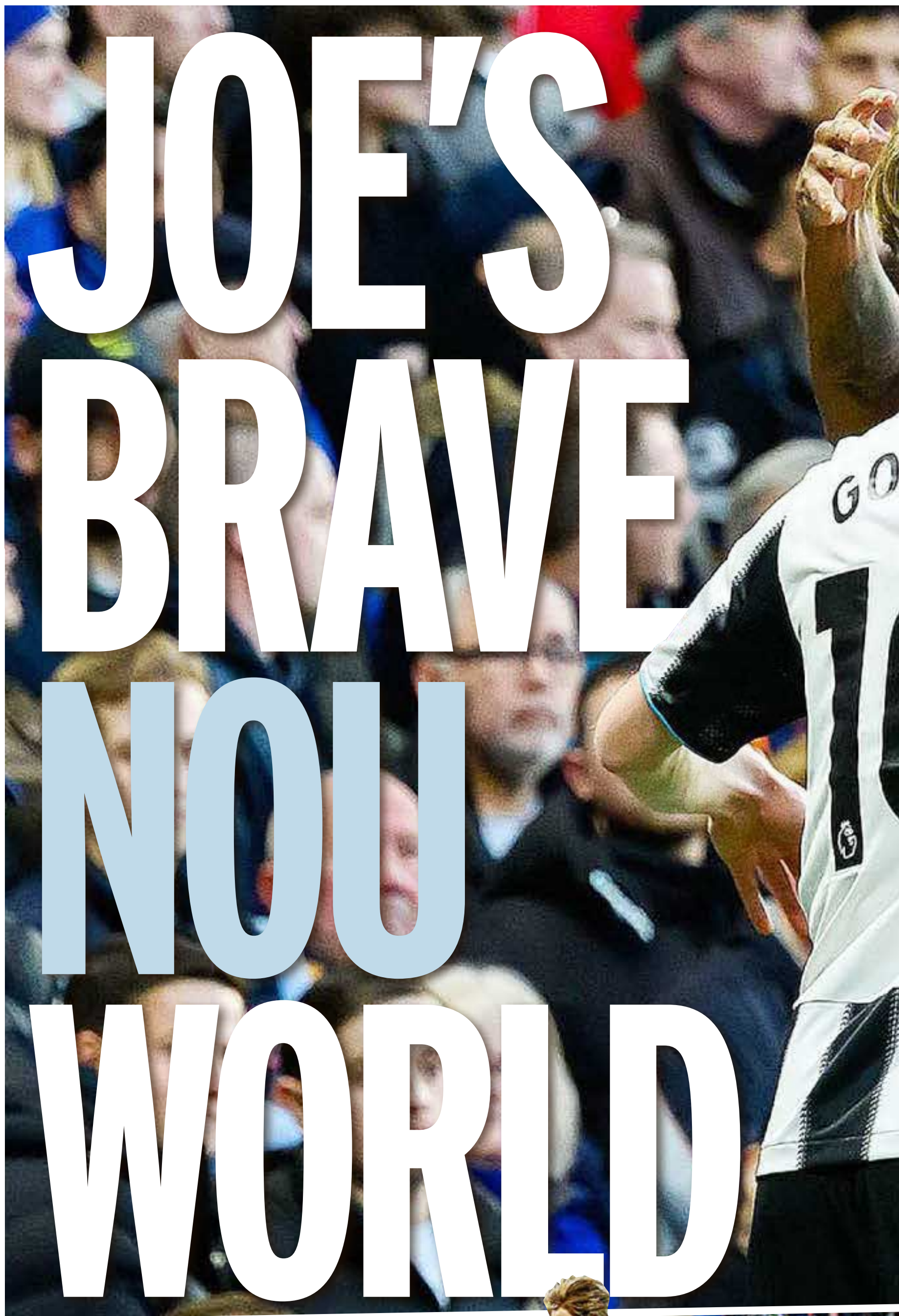
JOE'S BRAVE NOU WORLD



WORLD CHAMPIONS
THE PRIDE OF LONDON

ANT SLAMS PUNDIT 'NONSENSE'

BY **ROBERT O'CONNOR**

ANTHONY GORDON said pundits Wayne Rooney and Alan Shearer need to "do better at what they're doing" after they questioned why he did not start Newcastle's midweek draw with Barcelona.

The forward was a second-half substitute during Tuesday's 1-1 Champions League draw at St James' Park after spending a number of days unable to train due to illness.

Rooney, Shearer (right) and fellow pundit Roy Keane were part of a team covering the game live pitchside and all three made comments about Gordon not being involved from the start. Speaking on Match of the Day after scoring the goal that ended Newcastle's 14-year wait for a victory against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge, Gordon said: "When I got to the stadium [last Tuesday] the manager told me I wasn't playing, which I didn't like very much, but that's his decision and the team played well.

"Saying I didn't want to play in the biggest game of my career is absolute nonsense. They need to do better at what they are doing."

Speaking on Tuesday, Shearer said it would take "something extraordinary to keep myself out of this game" while Keane wondered why Gordon could come on as a sub but not start.

BRIDGE BUSTER
Willock is congratulated by Gordon after setting up Toon's winner (left)

CHELSEA	0
NEWCASTLE	1

Willock eyes Barca raid after helping sink Blues

BY **LEE RYDER**

JOE WILLOCK believes that Newcastle's grand tour of Europe should just be the start of great things to come for the Magpies – not the pinnacle.

After beating Chelsea at Stamford Bridge to dent the Blues' bid for the top five and boost their own ailing Euro hopes, Newcastle head to Barcelona with confidence and with Willock in the type of form that has England looking at him again.

As 10,000 Geordie fans prepare to make the journey to Catalonia for Wednesday's Champions League second leg, this away day could be a trip for the ages.

Willock, the former Arsenal youngster, was signed by Steve Bruce on loan back in 2021 to help steer Newcastle to Premier League survival, and he responded with seven goals in seven top-flight games to match an Alan Shearer record.

Since his £25million move from the Gunners, Willock has watched on as the club were taken over by Saudi backers PIF, who have transformed the squad.

But Willock has proved good enough to stay around and, despite suffering some rotten luck with injuries, he has played a part in turning Newcastle from a team threatened by relegation into a cup-winning outfit and Champions League participant.

Willock has been on the Toon journey, but now admits he is hungry for more.

After setting up Anthony Gordon with a lung-busting run and pass to sink Chelsea, when asked if it had been a roller-coaster ride on Tyneside, Willock said: "100 percent. This team and this club has always had so much potential.

"We're so happy to be in the position we are in, and we want to go further and further.

"We will go there, dig deep and hopefully try to get the win in Barcelona."

Even this season, Newcastle and Willock have suffered tough times but they were good enough to go to Parc des Princes and hold European kings Paris Saint-Germain to a 1-1 draw in January, when Willock scored a superb goal (below).

He said: "We have always been confident, we are confident as a group and are confident in the manager to play the right tactics to go on and win games.

"We're looking to Barcelona – it is what you dream of, playing at the Nou Camp.

"We're going there to try to win. I am looking forward to seeing them [the travelling fans] out there, I am so happy that they get to witness these games, because they have been with us in difficult times.

"So these times I want them to enjoy it, and hopefully they can cheer us to a win again."

The Magpies will kick off level at 1-1 against Barca in the Nou Camp, but their confidence could not be better after seeing off Chelsea with a disciplined performance that featured their first clean sheet in 14 attempts.

Willock said: "It was a good win, I thought we played really well and defended really well. We scored a good goal and we're happy to win.

"We'll take some momentum from this into the game on Wednesday.

"We have been working on defending our goal better and not conceding goals in the last minute. We were happy we could do that, it was a special win. We'll try to build on that."

Despite having a reputation for weighing in with goals, Willock made it clear that slipping the ball to Gordon for the winner at the Bridge was the right thing to do.

The midfielder said: "100 percent. It is a team sport – and I am delighted for Gordy, he is a striker and wants to score goals. I didn't really see him go through, I heard him!

"I put him in and I am delighted for him."

CHELSEA (4-2-3-1): Sanchez; Gusto (Delap 46), Fofana (Hato 82), Chalobah, Cucurella; James, Caicedo (Lavia 61); Palmer, Fernandez, Garnacho; Joao Pedro.

NEWCASTLE (4-2-3-1): Ramsdale; Livramento, Thiaw, Botman, Hall; Willock (Burn 77), Ramsey; Murphy (Elanga 78), Woltemade (Joelinto 67), Barnes; Gordon.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

PREMIER LEAGUE

CHELSEA		NEWCASTLE
67%	POSSESSION	33%
3	SHOTS ON TARGET	5
10	SHOTS OFF TARGET	1
675	TOTAL PASSES	331
8	CORNERS	1
0	OFFSIDE	0
9	FOULS	10
🟥 0 🟨 2	CARDS	🟨 2 🟥 0

REF: Paul Tierney **ATT:** 39,587

MAN OF THE MATCH
JOE WILLOCK

CHALOBAH'S STILL A BELIEVER

BY **BOBBY VINCENT**

TREVOH CHALOBAH is predicting a "very special" occasion as Chelsea welcome Paris Saint-Germain to Stamford Bridge tomorrow, searching for an historic Champions League comeback.

The Blues were beaten 5-2 as the European champions struck three times in the final 16 minutes at Parc des Princes last week.

There is still hope among the Chelsea squad as they look to reach the last eight.

After losing to Newcastle on Saturday, Chelsea had only 72 hours to recover for the second leg against PSG.

Chalobah, though, is banking on an unforgettable night under the lights at Stamford Bridge.

"This is Chelsea and it's what we are playing for," said Chalobah. "We want to be competing in the best competitions, both in Europe and in the Premier League, and we have a big game on Tuesday that I'm sure will be very special.

"It's going to be a tough challenge but we are going to give it everything, so we need to move on from this game and focus on some big challenges ahead."

Chelsea were booed off by their own supporters after a frustrating defeat to the Toon.

While Chalobah is frustrated, he accepted these sort of games can happen.

"We created a lot of chances that we didn't take," said the Blues defender.

"Newcastle defended deep and defended well in fairness. We were just lacking that final touch in front of goal.

"That happens in football sometimes, it's the fine margins and we just need to pick ourselves up."

KELMAN NOW WARMING TO ADDICKS TASK

OXFORD	1
CHARLTON	1

Championship

SUN-LOVING Charlie Kelman has a spring in his step after welcoming the weather taking a turn for the better.

Charlton's super-sub grabbed a crucial point with a cool stoppage-time penalty to push Nathan Jones' men to the verge of Championship safety after a seven-point week.

US youth international Kelman has struggled to hold down a regular starting place with the Addicks but showed nerves of steel to slot home his sixth goal of the season and second in three games after coming off the bench in the second half.

The 24-year-old striker (above) puts his upturn in fortunes down to a welcome dose of Vitamin D, and he said: "I'm starting to find a bit of form – it must be when the sun comes out!

"It was a high-pressure penalty, but they're the moments you live for as a player. A few of the boys on the other team are good pals of mine so it was nice to score.

"Finding the net is the best feeling in football and hopefully there are many more to come.

"Things are looking positive for us and that's reflected in the results. Although it's not the scoreline we wanted, we'll take seven points from the week."

Oxford were denied a fourth straight win after taking a second-half lead when Cameron Brannagan fired home after the U's earned a first penalty in 92 games stretching back 675 days.

Matt Bloomfield's side are a point adrift of safety and skipper Brannagan said: "It's frustrating and it feels like a missed opportunity after leading for so long and then having the sucker punch at the end.

"We weren't great in the first half but we came out as a completely different team in the second and it's another point in the right direction.

"We can be frustrated and wound-up but we have to look forward. The games are coming quickly and there's not many left, so we have to try and keep this unbeaten run going."

PARKER'S PAINFUL DESCENT

BY **JOHN RICHARDSON**

SCOTT PARKER is hurting at Burnley's slide back into the Championship – and he is not afraid to show it.

In the previous home game VAR had cast a long shadow over the club, denying two late goals in the 4-3 defeat against Brentford.

While this latest Turf Moor encounter did not possess the same narrative it did not provide any mental relief for the Clarets boss. "Every press conference leading into the season it would have been said to me that the last three teams that have come up have been relegated," he said.

"If someone had said what's our chances (of staying up) the reply would have been they are going to be slim.

"That's not me being negative because we drive and drive and drive to try and over perform at certain moments. The facts and the reality is this club, our team, would have needed to over perform. At every moment we would have had to over perform.

"Whether people want to hear it or not, or they want to see me as an over negative guy that doesn't give us a chance. But this is the reality."

He added: "For what this team has been through this season, for what human beings they are, what they have been through from the start of the season... it's still remarkable where this team are."

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STING RAY

Iraola defends Brazil kid after frustrations in Burnley draw

TURF GOING Rayan found it hard to have an impact facing Burnley at Turf Moor

PREMIER LEAGUE

BURNLEY		BOURNEMOUTH
38%	POSSESSION	62%
2	SHOTS ON TARGET	3
5	SHOTS OFF TARGET	10
283	TOTAL PASSES	471
5	CORNERS	8
1	OFFSIDE	1
11	FOULS	5
0 🟥 1 🟨	CARDS	0 🟨 0 🟥

REF: Peter Bankes **ATT:** 20,281

MAN OF THE MATCH
ALEX SCOTT

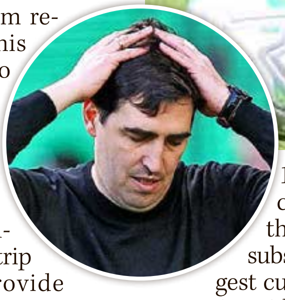
BURNLEY	0
BOURNEMOUTH	0

BY **JOHN RICHARDSON**

BOURNEMOUTH'S latest exciting capture Rayan discovered that the sun will not always shine on the Brazilian winger.

The 19-year-old launched his Premier League career with a couple of goals and some assists – helping his club soften the blow of losing £62.5million Antoine Semenyo to Manchester City.

At Turf Moor, his £90m release clause following his £24.7m switch from Vasco da Gama appeared grossly inflated as he ran into a Burnley roadblock masterminded by Kyle Walker.



But Cherries boss Andoni Iraola believes the trip to Lancashire will provide valuable experience for the teenager.

"Definitely he can learn from today," said Iraola (inset). "He is only 19, he has just come from Brazil, he doesn't speak the language. He's not used to playing to this rhythm, but he is still doing very well.

"We can't expect him to be scoring a goal every two games and always providing an assist. But he will learn from these type of games."

Rayan also operated on the left wing rather than his normal right berth with Iraola explaining: "Jaidon Anthony is a good player and I decided to put Tav (Marcus Tavernier) there for his more defensive work.

After all he will not come up against the still pacy Walker, who ditched his England career but still has a part to play in the Premier League. Some Bournemouth players including Alex Scott, who orchestrated his side's better moves, fell to the ground at the final whistle in the knowledge that a 10-game unbeaten record was no solace for the squandered chances, substitute Enes Unal the biggest culprit stabbing a late opportunity wide.

The last four games have ended in draws, further damaging the club's continental aspirations.

Iraola said: "At this level you've got to take the chances we created. It's costing us a lot of points. Sometimes a draw away from home can feel very good but this was different."

Defender James Hill knows that they have to be more clinical in front of goal, with Manchester United arriving on the Dorset coast on Friday night.

"If we keep creating then I am sure we will convert those chances," he added.

BURNLEY (4-2-3-1): Dubravka; Walker; Humphreys, Esteve (Worrall 74), Hartman (Pires 74); Laurent (Ugochukwu 88), Ward-Prowse; Foster (Edwards 66), Mejbri, Anthony; Flemming (Broja 88).

BOURNEMOUTH (4-2-3-1): Petrovic; Smith (Jimenez 61), Hill, Senesi, Truffert; Scott, Christie (Adli 61); Tavernier, Kroupi (Brooks 80), Rayan (Unal 87); Evanilson.

WEARYSIDE

Sunderland stagger to another defeat with no sign of early-season flourish

NOT YOUR DAY
Chris Rigg had a goal ruled out for marginal offside in the build-up

SUNDERLAND 0
BRIGHTON 1

BY **IAN MURTAGH**

THE football world is now witnessing the Sunderland it expected to see back in August.

The pre-season relegation favourites are not as naïve or ill-equipped as the three Premier League rookies who went down without a fight last season.

But they have morphed into a losing team, one that cannot score goals these days and a side now lacking the energy and self-belief which played such a crucial role in building the survival platform which will see them stumble over the line.

As with all struggling teams, they have also become a hostage to the fortune which once smiled on them. They suffered their third successive home defeat to arguably the ugliest goal of this or any other campaign with an off-balance Yankuba Minteh's horribly shanked cross totally deceiving Melker Ellborg at his near post.

Brighton's winner came just minutes after Chris Rigg had what appeared to be his first top-flight goal ruled out for a marginal offside decision in the build-up.

And Minteh struck after the Seagulls had spent the opening minutes of the second half on the back foot, hanging on to parity.

But such details cannot gloss over the bigger picture for a Sunderland side who have badly lost their way and their mojo.

Dumped out of the FA Cup by lowly Port Vale, they have only scored one goal from open play in their last six games.

And since Liverpool breached their Stadium of Light fortress last month, that veneer of impregnability on Wearside has become a distant memory.

With injuries mounting up and players struggling for form, it cooks up a recipe for disaster heading into next week's Tyne-Wear derby.

And worryingly, striker Brian Brobbey's post-match reflections sounded more like a downbeat admission than a rousing battlecry.

"We are not creating that much," he said when asked how concerning was the goal drought.

"It's hard to create but when we have the chance, we just need to score.

"We are training on it and hopefully we're going to find a solution soon." Manager Regis Le Bris is not one for fist-pumping addresses either.

But the taciturn Frenchman will not panic at the recent run just as he refused to get carried away when Sunderland were flying high last autumn.

"We had a really strong period then we went into a vicious cycle," he said.

"It's hard to break the cycle because you push players who were injured a bit earlier than expected.

"We are in this cycle right now so we just stay together, try to manage the situation, try to learn, keep good resilience.

"Obviously our end product is not the best at the moment. We have many young lads and this part of the pitch is probably the hardest one.

"We need to keep going."

Brighton's Fabian Hurzler will appreciate his counterpart's predicament having endured his own problems but there are signs the Seagulls are coming out of a tricky period and can end the season with a flourish.

And on this evidence, it will be their veterans' section which will be leading the way with the remarkable James Milner completing his first 90 minutes for months and fellow oldies Lewis Dunk and Danny Welbeck also proving there's no substitute for experience.

SUNDERLAND (4-3-3): Ellborg; Geertruida, Ballard (O'Nien 64), Alderete, Hume; Diarra, Xhaka, Sadiki; Rigg, Brobbey (Mayenda 78), Talbi (Cirkin 85).

BRIGHTON (4-2-3-1): Verbruggen; Wieffer, van Hecke, Dunk, Kadioglu; Milner, Gross; Gomez (Veltman 90), Hinshelwood (Ayari 88), Minteh (De Cuyper 76); Welbeck (O'Riley 90)

PREMIER LEAGUE

SUNDERLAND		BRIGHTON
48%	POSSESSION	52%
4	SHOTS ON TARGET	4
5	SHOTS OFF TARGET	3
422	TOTAL PASSES	471
7	CORNERS	3
3	OFFSIDE	1
7	FOULS	12
🟥 0 🟨 1	CARDS	🟨 2 🟥 0

REF: Thomas Kirk **ATT:** 45,497

MAN OF THE MATCH
JACK HINSHELWOOD

SEAGULLS SCORER IN MINTEH CONDITION

BY **IAN MURTAGH**

TEAM-MATE Mats Wieffer has warned Brighton matchwinner Yankuba Minteh not to pretend his goal at the Stadium of Light was anything but a fluke.

The Dutchman playfully taunted Minteh about the mis-hit 58th-minute cross (right) which separated the two sides.

"It was a really ugly goal," he said. "One of the craziest this season."

And if he says he meant it? "Then he's lying of course!

"He miskicked it completely and then it just falls first post and goes in. But nobody cares to be honest. We're happy with it."

Minteh has endured a rollercoaster campaign pockmarked by injury and inconsistent form but Wieffer believes he can finish it strongly.

"Some people forget he is still 21," he added. "He's fast, quick and every full-back will have a nightmare if he is in form.

"Hopefully, he can continue like this.

"The goal was fortunate but I'm happy for him that he's finally scored after a period when he struggled a little bit."

Despite Brighton's win, Wieffer insists it is premature to talk about a push for Europe.

He said: "It's always a possibility.

"But now we really look game to game.

"We have moments when it goes really well and periods when it's not going so well.

"Now we've won three in four and managed to keep a clean sheet in the last couple of games, defending well in the last minutes when we struggled before.

"But let's stay a little bit humble."

MILLION WAYS TO GIVE FANS A THANK-YOU

STOKE CITY 3
WATFORD 1

Championship

MATCH-WINNER Manhoef had a special message for Stoke fans: 'thanks a Million'.

Two-goal Million Manhoef sealed a first victory in five games and dedicated the three points to the City faithful.

After finding the net for the first time since November to finally end any lingering fears of being dragged into a late relegation battle, the seven-goal Dutch winger said: "I thought we did a good job and I'm happy to score twice.

"I really love playing at home. It's a nice stadium with great fans and when we fight for them they give the energy back to us and I really love that so hopefully there's more to come."

Nestory Irankunda gave Watford brief hope when he halved the deficit late on.

But Sam Gallagher (inset) sealed Stoke's win to all-but end the Hornets slim play-off hopes after one win in four.

Jonathan Lawson came off the bench on his debut for Ed Still's side to make it two games in as many days for the highly-rated 20-year-old academy striker.

The former Cray Valley youngster figured for the Hornets' under-21s against Wigan on Friday before making his senior debut in the Potteries and he said: "It's a bit of a surreal moment and it hasn't really sunk in yet.

"Before the under-21 game I was told I'd be travelling with the first team but I wouldn't have guessed that I'd come on, so it was a bit unexpected but definitely a good surprise.

"It's hard to put into words but I'm just very happy and I want to thank my friends and family and the coaching staff who've helped me on the journey.

"The lads told me to enjoy it and the gaffer said he wanted me to go on and have fun."

LEAGUE ONE ROUND-UP

SKUBALA SO HAPPY WITH LATE SHOW

BY **EUAN PARSONS**

MICHAEL SKUBALA hailed LINCOLN'S character after two late goals saw them beat STOCKPORT 3-1 to maintain their four-point advantage at the top.

Jack Moylan's early goal was cancelled out by Jack Diamond, but Tendayi Darikwa and substitute Alfie Lloyd helped make it a club record 20 league games unbeaten.

Head coach Skubala (above) said: "We had to show a lot of character, to suffer a little bit, but we had moments where we hurt them and in the end getting those late goals and points was great."

CARDIFF moved 11 points clear of third-placed Bolton with a 4-0 win at EXETER courtesy of two quick goals from Rubin Colwill, adding to efforts from Alex Robertson and Callum Robinson.

"It was a brilliant performance from the very start of the game," said boss Brian Barry-Murphy.

"Exeter has always been a tough ground for away teams but we were really worthy winners."

BOLTON came from two goals down to draw 2-2 at ROTHERHAM as Chris Forino and Sam Dalby cancelled out Sam Nombe's first-half double.

WIGAN'S 2-0 win over BRADFORD, with goals from Caylan Vickers and Joe Taylor, took Latics out of the relegation zone.

STEVENAGE moved up to fifth thanks to a solitary strike from Jamie Reid against AFC WIMBLEDON, overtaking HUDDERSFIELD, who were held to a goalless draw at PORT VALE.

READING drew 2-2 with fellow play-off hopefuls PLYMOUTH and LUTON won 2-1 at WYCOMBE.

Stephen McLaughlin snatched a stoppage-time equaliser as MANSFIELD fought back from 2-0 down to draw 2-2 with BARNSLEY.

LEYTON ORIENT beat PETERBOROUGH 2-1, BURTON defeated NORTHAMPTON 2-0 and DONCASTER saw off struggling BLACKPOOL 2-1.

LEAGUE TWO ROUND-UP

WOODMAN IS WINNING WAR OF NERVES

BY **JOSH LUCKHURST**

BROMLEY boss Andy Woodman admitted he could sense "anxiety" in his team as they extended their unbeaten league run to 19 games with a 1-0 win over BRISTOL ROVERS.

Will Hondermarck's 18th-minute strike proved decisive before the visitors had Shaq Forde sent off.

Woodman (above) said: "I can sense nerves and anxiety around the place, but we are unbeaten at home and bang on target for where I want us to be."

Marvin Ekpiteta's 79th-minute header ensured MK DONS remain hot on their heels after a 2-1 win at fellow promotion contenders SWINDON.

Frustrated Robins boss Ian Holloway said: "So with must-win games and you lose them, what do you do after that? I'll still be alive tomorrow."

CAMBRIDGE maintained their promotion bid with a 5-0 demolition of GILLINGHAM, but Liam Mandeville dented 10-man NOTTS COUNTY'S promotion hopes by heading CHESTERFIELD to a 3-2 win at Meadow Lane.

Armando Dobra had already put the visitors ahead when County's Oliver Norburn was sent off and although Sil Swinkels' own goal squared it, goals from Tom Naylor and Mandeville either side of Matty Platt's equaliser saw the visitors home.

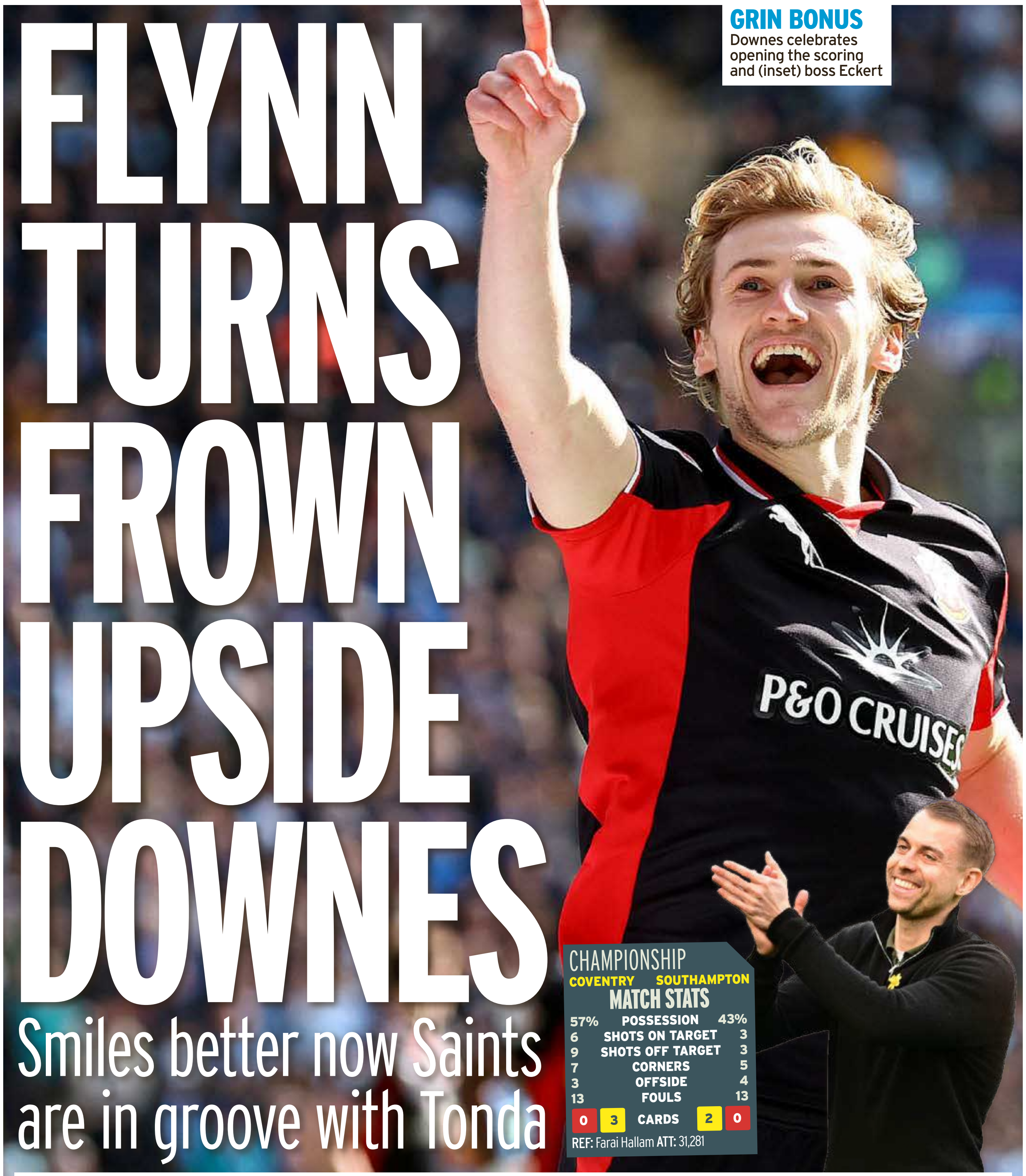
Substitute Dan Udoh fired SALFORD to a 1-0 win at HARROGATE and OLDHAM'S Josh Hawkes also came off the bench to claim victory over GRIMSBY by the same score.

Albert Adomah's double and a goal from Aaron Pressley handed caretaker WALSALL boss Darren Byfield a 3-0 win at CREWE in his first game in charge.

At the bottom, NEWPORT won 2-1 at BARNET, while Jordan Thomas and Sam Sherring fired CHELTENHAM to a 2-0 victory at SHREWSBURY.

FLYNN TURNS FROWN UPSIDE DOWNES

Smiles better now Saints are in groove with Tonda



GRIN BONUS
Downes celebrates opening the scoring and (inset) boss Eckert

CHAMPIONSHIP

COVENTRY	MATCH STATS	SOUTHAMPTON
57%	POSSESSION	43%
6	SHOTS ON TARGET	3
9	SHOTS OFF TARGET	3
7	CORNERS	5
3	OFFSIDE	4
13	FOULS	13
0 3	CARDS	2 0

REF: Farai Hallam **ATT:** 31,281

COVENTRY	1
SOUTHAMPTON	2

FLYNN DOWNES reckons the Saints are no longer the 'aints' after finally shaking off an eight-month Premier League hangover.

Tonda Eckert's FA Cup quarter-finalists stretched their 12-game unbeaten run with a statement win at leaders Coventry to add to the growing belief that they can bounce straight back into the big time.

Downes admits they took time to recover from a disastrous top-flight campaign, but after two months without a defeat the midfielder is confident resurgent Southampton club can bridge the three-point gap to sixth-place Wrexham.

Kuryu Matsuki added to the 27-year-old's second goal of the season on his 100th Saints appearance and Downes said: "It's an absolutely massive win at the toughest place to come in the division.

"We'd watched the Wrexham game the night before [a 2-0 win over Swansea] and we knew we had to win, simple as that.

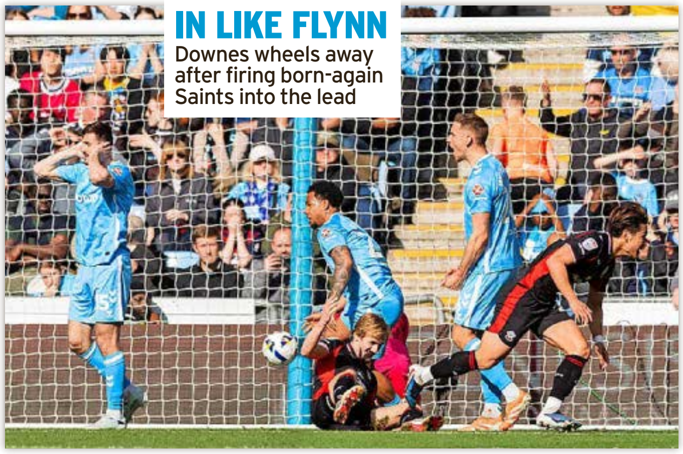
"It was a proud day for me and I'm happy to get a goal. I reckon the gaffer should get me up top now! It's an understatement to say there have been ups and downs during my time here.

"At the start of the season we didn't do ourselves justice at all and we struggled after last year.

"We're normal people and we had a really tough year and didn't quite get it right at the start.

"Now we're flying and we've got to keep the momentum going and hopefully can get into the top six. The whole club is coming together and we're in a good place."

Frank Lampard's men pulled one back when Victor Torp won and converted an added-time penalty.



IN LIKE FLYNN
Downes wheels away after firing born-again Saints into the lead

But it wasn't enough to stretch a six-game winning run as the Sky Blues' advantage at the top was trimmed to seven points after only a second home defeat of the campaign.

Coventry return to action at Swansea on Saturday and their Brentford loan midfielder Frank Onyeka said: "Nobody wants to lose, but we have to accept it and move forward to the next game.

"After scoring the penalty we still created loads of chances to get another but we couldn't manage it so it's disappointing.

"We can't dwell on it for too long, we need to move on and look forward to Swansea."

Haji Wright is set to be sidelined with a groin problem which forced City's 17-goal leading scorer off in the second half.

Lampard said: "We threw the kitchen sink at it and didn't deserve to lose.

"It hurts more because we're used to winning here."

LEAGUE ONE

DONCASTER (1) **2**
Bailey 29, Adelakun 83

BLACKPOOL (0) **1**
Fletcher 88
ATT: 8,662

Doncaster: Clark, Sterry, Byrne, Pearson, Senior, Gotts (Close 86), Molyneux, Bailey, Lee (Clifton 65), Middleton (Adelakun 79), Hanlan (Sharp 86).
Blackpool: Peacock-Farrell, Casey, Horsfall, Husband (Coulson 84), Brown, Walters, Anderson, Honeyman (Bowler 62), Hamilton, Bloxham (Fletcher 62), Ennis. **Booked:** Anderson 42, Ennis 60, Bowler 64, Horsfall 74. **Sent-off:** Horsfall 89. **Ref:** Carl Brook.

EXETER (0) **0**
ATT: 7,180

CARDIFF (2) **4**
R Colwill 31, 34, Robertson 68
Robinson 86

Exeter: Whitworth, Sweeney, Woodhouse, Andrew (Cummins 62), Niskanen, Brierley, McMillan, Higgins (Mendes Gomes 71), Cole (Aitchison 62), Wareham (Cox 82), Magennis (Tutierov 62).
Cardiff: Trott, Ng, Osho, Lawlor, Bagan (Scanlon 89), Wintle, Robertson (Turnbull 71), Tanner (Willock 71), R Colwill (J Colwill 75), Ashford, Kellyman (Robinson 75).

LEYTON ORIENT (1) **2**
Simpson 44, Bakinson 81

PETERBOROUGH (0) **1**
Morgan 85

Leyton O: Dennis, James, Casey (Happe 61), Simpson, Morris, Abdulai (El Mizouni 79), Levitt (Bakinson 61), Mitchell (Archibald 60), Wellens, O'Neill, Ballard (Perkins 90). **Booked:** Happe 84, Archibald 90.
Peterborough: Bass, Dornelly, Kioso, Okagbue, Johnston (Mills 30), Collins, Khela, Frith (Hayes 59), Morgan, Lisbie, Kamara (Aderoju 74). **Booked:** Frith 45, Lisbie 90. **Ref:** Robert Madley.

LINCOLN CITY (1) **3**
Moylan 10, Darikwa 87, Lloyd 90
ATT: 9,759

STOCKPORT COUNTY (0) **1**
Diamond 68

Lincoln City: Wickens, Darikwa, Hamer, Bradley, Towler, Varfolomeyev (Bayliss 75), McGrandles, Hackett (Reach 75), Moylan (House 62), One (Jefferies 62), Street (Lloyd 75). **Booked:** Towler 14, Hamer 70.
Stockport County: Addai, Olowu (Diamond 57), Hills, Pye, Dacres-Cogley, Norwood, Bailey, Osborn, Sidibeh (Olaofe 84), Stokes (Fiorini 84), Wootton. **Booked:** Norwood 78. **Ref:** Charles Breakspear.

MANSFIELD (0) **2**
Akins 57 (pen)
McLaughlin 90

BARNSLEY (1) **2**
McGoldrick 19, Banks 49
ATT: 8,538

Mansfield: Roberts, Knoyle (Hewitt 46), Oshilaja, Blake-Tracy, Akins, Reed (Irow 87), Abbott (Moriah-Welsh 56), McLaughlin, Lewis (Hendry 46), Adeboyejo (Evans 46), Oates.
Barnsley: Goodman, O'Keeffe (Watson 39), Durand de Gevigney, O'Connell, Shepherd, Connell, Yoganathan, McGoldrick, Kelly (Phillips 69), Banks (Bland 69), Bradshaw (Cleary 86). **Booked:** Durand de Gevigney 7, O'Keeffe 27, Kelly 68. **Ref:** Martin Woods.

NORTHAMPTON (0) **0**
ATT: 6,408

BURTON ALBION (1) **2**
Beesley 32, Lofthouse 89

Northampton: Burge, Dyche, Moore, Forbes (Perkins 83), Guinness-Walker, Hoskins (Swyer 64), McGeehan, Taylor (Fornah 65), Campbell (Jacobs 83), Evans, Vale (Eaves 64). **Booked:** Taylor 13, McGeehan 20.
Burton Albion: Collins, Godwin-Malife, Moon, Hartridge, Lofthouse, Chauke (McKiernan 87), Evans, Sibbick, Cannon (Williams 68), Beesley, Shade (Adom 87). **Booked:** Collins 70, Chauke 86. **Ref:** Lee Swabey.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lincoln City	37	24	8	5	69	32	80
Cardiff	37	23	7	7	73	39	76
Bolton	37	17	14	6	55	38	65
Bradford	37	19	7	11	47	41	64
Stevenage	36	16	9	11	40	37	57
Huddersfield	37	16	8	13	56	46	56
Stockport Cty	35	16	8	11	48	46	56
Reading	37	14	13	10	55	49	55
Wycombe	37	14	11	12	53	41	53
Plymouth	37	16	5	16	56	53	53
Luton	37	14	9	14	48	46	51
Barnsley	35	13	10	12	58	58	49
AFC Wimbledon	36	14	7	15	46	50	49
Peterborough	36	14	4	18	51	51	46
Mansfield	35	11	12	12	42	39	45
Burton Albion	37	11	10	16	41	51	43
Doncaster	36	12	7	17	40	59	43
Exeter	37	11	9	17	40	47	42
Leyton Orient	36	12	6	18	49	60	42
Wigan	36	10	11	15	38	50	41
Blackpool	37	10	8	19	43	61	38
Rotherham	36	9	9	18	35	50	36
Northampton	37	9	8	20	31	50	35
Port Vale	34	6	10	18	26	46	28

PORT VALE (0) **0**

HUDDERSFIELD (0) **0**
ATT: 6,878

Port Vale: Gauci, Magloire, Campbell, Gordon, Lawrence-Gabriel, Walters (Archer 90), Ojo, Headley (Hall 73), Waine (Gray 63), Shipley, Sherif (Brown 63). **Booked:** Ojo 62, Lawrence-Gabriel 74, Brown 87.
Huddersfield: Nicholls, Feeney, Wallace, Roughan, Sorensen (Alves 73), Kasumu (Wales 84), Humphreys, Mumba, Ashia (Miller 65), Harness, Hardie. **Booked:** Wallace 89. **Ref:** Thomas Parsons.

READING (2) **2**
R Williams 3, O'Connor 18

PLYMOUTH (1) **2**
Mitchell 7, Watts 67
ATT: 16,277

Reading: Pereira, Nyambe (Yiadom 76), O'Connor, D Williams, Dorsett, Wing, Savage, R Williams (Young 84), Doyle, Lane (Ritchie 76), Ehibhatiomhan (Keane 76). **Booked:** Nyambe 45.
Plymouth: Ashby-Hammond, Edwards, Ross Jensen, Mitchell, MacKenzie (Amaechi 77), Curtis, Boateng, Kane (Wiredu 85), Dale, Watts (Paterson 76), Pepple. **Booked:** Pepple 1, Mitchell 32, Curtis 55. **Ref:** Sebastian Stockbridge.

ROTHERHAM (2) **2**
Nombe 39, 42

BOLTON (0) **2**
Forino-Joseph 51, Dalby 83
ATT: 9,348

Rotherham: Cann, Agbaire (Adegboyega 89), Jules, Baptiste, Powell, Rafferty (Benson 58), Cover, Martha (Watmore 78), James, Gray (Biancheri 89), Nombe. **Booked:** Rafferty 38, Cover 48, Cann 57.
Bolton: Bonham, Osei-Tutu (Christie 67), Forino-Joseph, Johnston, Conway (Apter 79), Sheehan, Erhahon (Dempsey 46), Burstow, Rodrigues (Kenny 46), Blackett-Taylor (Gale 21), Dalby. **Booked:** Erhahon 13. **Ref:** James Oldham.

STEVENAGE (1) **1**
Reid 10 (pen)

AFC WIMBLEDON (0) **0**
ATT: 4,089

Stevenage: Marschall, Goode, Piergianni, Freestone, James Wildin, Houghton (Thompson 78), White, Patterson (Pattenden 78), Kemp (B Lubala 86 (Sweeney 90)), Phillips, Reid (Roberts 78). **Booked:** Kemp 54, Freestone 90.
AFC Wimbledon: McDonnell, Asiimwe, Ogundere, Lewis (Nkeng 77), Johnson, Seddon, Maycock (Nelson 65), Smith (Reeves 65), Hippolyte, Stevens (Bugiel 65), Browne (Hackford 77). **Booked:** Smith 3, Hippolyte 90. **Ref:** Declan Bourne.

WIGAN (1) **2**
Vickers 20, Taylor 78

BRADFORD (0) **0**
ATT: 16,710

Wigan: Tickle, Kerr, Aimson, Chapman (Robinson 90), Borges Rodrigues, Weir, Moxon (Saydee 85), Murray, Vickers (Smith 59), Wright, Taylor (Hungbo 90). **Subs not used:** Savin, McManaman, Bettoni. **Booked:** Aimson 31, Kerr 39, Weir 68, Borges Rodrigues 82.
Bradford: Walker, Pennington (Ashby 75), Tilt, Touray, Neufville, Metcalfe, Power, T Wright, Sarcevic (Swan 46), Pointon (Humphrys 46), Wheatley (Mullin 46). **Booked:** Touray 66, Ashby 90.
Ref: Andrew Humphries.

WYCOMBE (0) **1**
Quitirna 90

LUTON (2) **2**
Naismith 21, Palmer 39
ATT: 6,761

Wycombe: Norris, Grimmer (Huggins 78), Taylor, Allen, Harvie, Morley, Boyd-Munce (Fink 70), Onyedinma, Mullins (Quitirna 53), Harris (Henderson 70), Lowe (Andre Vidigal 70). **Booked:** Harris 61, Harvie 70, Andre Vidigal 84.
Luton: Keeley, Lonwijk, Odofin, Naismith, Kodua (Johnson 78), Walsh, Saville, Lawrence, Clark, Palmer (Adebayo 89), Wells (Cole 73). **Booked:** Saville 45. **Ref:** Craig Hicks.

PREMIER LEAGUE

		HOME						AWAY					
		P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Arsenal	31	12	2	1	35	9	9	5	2	26	13	70
2	Man City	30	11	3	1	36	11	7	4	4	24	17	61
3	Man Utd	30	10	3	2	30	17	5	6	4	24	24	54
4	Aston Villa	30	9	2	4	21	15	6	4	5	19	22	51
5	Liverpool	30	8	4	3	27	17	6	3	6	22	23	49
6	Chelsea	30	6	5	4	23	17	7	4	4	30	18	48
7	Brentford	29	7	4	3	24	15	6	1	8	20	25	44
8	Everton	30	5	4	6	18	19	7	3	5	16	16	43
9	Newcastle	30	8	2	5	28	24	4	4	7	15	19	42
10	Bournemouth	30	6	7	2	21	15	3	7	5	23	31	41
11	Fulham	30	8	2	5	24	18	4	3	8	16	25	41
12	Brighton	30	6	6	3	22	16	4	4	7	17	20	40
13	Sunderland	30	7	5	3	22	14	3	5	7	8	21	40
14	Crystal Palace	30	3	7	5	14	18	7	2	6	19	17	39
15	Leeds	30	6	4	5	22	20	1	7	7	15	28	32
16	Tottenham	30	2	4	9	18	25	5	5	5	22	22	30
17	Nottm Forest	30	3	5	7	13	19	4	3	8	15	24	29
18	West Ham	30	3	4	8	18	28	4	4	7	18	27	29
19	Burnley	30	2	5	8	15	23	2	3	10	17	35	20
20	Wolves	30	3	3	10	17	31	0	4	10	5	21	16

ARSENAL (0) **2**
Gyokeres 89
Dowman 90

EVERTON (0) **0**
ATT: 60,176

BURNLEY (0) **0**

BOURNEMOUTH (0) **0**
ATT: 20,281

CHELSEA (0) **0**

NEWCASTLE (1) **1**
Gordon 18
ATT: 39,857

SUNDERLAND (0) **0**

BRIGHTON (0) **1**
Minteh 58
ATT: 45,497

WEST HAM (1) **1**
Mavropanos 35
ATT 62,459

MAN CITY (1) **1**
Silva 31

CRYSTAL PALACE (0) **0**

LEEDS (0) **0**
ATT: 25,155

LIVERPOOL (1) **1**
Szoboszlai 18

TOTTENHAM (0) **1**
Richarlison 90

MAN UTD (0) **3**
Casemiro 53
Cunha 71
Sesko 81

ASTON VILLA (0) **1**
Barkley 64
ATT: 73,997

NOTTM FOREST (0) **0**

FULHAM (0) **0**
ATT: 30,013

TOP SCORERS

PREMIER LEAGUE

E Haaland (Man City)..... 22
Thiago (Brentford)........... 18
Semenyo (Man City)........ 15
10 for AFC Bournemouth
Joao Pedro (Chelsea)..... 14

CHAMPIONSHIP

Vipotnik (Swansea) 17
Wright (Coventry) 16
Clarke (Ipswich) 13
Gelhardt (Hull)................. 13
McBurnie (Hull) 13

LEAGUE ONE

Ballard (Leyton Orient).. 18
Wootton (Stockport) 17
Marriott (Reading) 16
Wareham (Exeter)............ 16
Aderoju (Peterborough) 16

LEAGUE TWO

Drinan (Swindon)............. 19
Cheek (Bromley) 16
Paterson (MK Dons) 14
Dennis (Notts County).... 14
Kanu (Walsall) 13

SCOTTISH PREM

Maswanhise (Motherwell)...16
Nygren (Celtic) 15
Stewart (Falkirk).............. 12
6 for Dunfermline
Braga (Hearts).................. 12

CHAMPIONSHIP

WREXHAM (1) **2**
Broadhead 25
Cullen 88 (og)

SWANSEA (0) **0**
ATT: 10,641

Wrexham: Okonkwo, Cleworth, Hyam, Doyle, Kabore, Vyner, O'Brien, Thomason, Rathbone, Broadhead (Windass 67), Smith (Cadamarteri 85).
Swansea: Vigouroux, Key, Cabango, Burgess, Tymon (Walta 82), Goncalo Franco (Yalcouye 59), Stamenic (Widell 74), Galbraith, Ronald (Eom 59), Vipotnik, Nunes Gomes (Cullen 59). **Booked:** Yalcouye 62, Tymon 77. **Ref:** Tom Nield.

BIRMINGHAM (1) **1**
Ducksch 25
ATT: 27,588

SHEFF UTD (1) **1**
Bamford 45

Birmingham: Beadle, Iwata, Klarer, Robinson (Panzo 46), Laird (Vicente 68), Solis (Doyle 82), Paik, Roberts, Ducksch, Osman (Gray 68), Stansfield (Priske 77). **Booked:** Robinson 28, Klarer 62.
Sheff Utd: A Davies, Seriki, Tanganga, Bindon, Burrows, Brooks (T Davies 72), Peck, Riedewald (Soumare 71), O'Hare (Hjelde 59), Ings (Hoever 25), Bamford (Cannon 71). **Sent-off:** Seriki 23, **Booked:** Brooks 45, Tanganga 67, Burrows 72, A Davies 90. **Ref:** Tim Robinson.

COVENTRY (0) **1**
Overgaard 90 (pen)

SOUTHAMPTON (0) **2**
Downes 48, Matsuki 85
ATT: 31,281

Coventry: Rushworth, van Ewijk, Woolfenden, Kitching, Dasilva, Onyeka (Overgaard 78), Grimes, Sakamoto (Esse 77), Eccles (Thomas-Asante 57), Mason-Clark, Wright (Simms 62). **Booked:** Kitching 53, Woolfenden 80, Simms 87.
Southampton: Peretz, Bree, Harwood-Bellis, Stephens, Manning, Bragg (Charles 67), Matsuki (Wood-Gordon 90), Jander, Downes, Azaz, Larin (Archer 67). **Booked:** Archer 86, Peretz 90. **Ref:** Farai Hallam.

LEICESTER (1) **1**
James 14
ATT: 27,494

QPR (1) **3**
Vale 43, Nelson 50 (og)
Edwards 58

Leicester: Stolarczyk, Choudhury (Ricardo Pereira 78), Okoli, Nelson, Thomas, Skipp (Winks 61), James (Richards 78), Fatawu, Mukasa (De Cordova-Reid 61), Mavididi, Ayew (Daka 61). **Subs not used:** Vieites, Aribo, Lascelles, Monga. **Booked:** Nelson 25.
QPR: Walsh, Mbengue, Dunne, Edwards, Norrington-Davies, Vale (Bennie 90), Hayden, Morgan (Varane 72), Smyth (Saito 84), Kolli (Poku 72), Kone. **Booked:** Kone 28, Dunne 79, Varane 83. **Ref:** Dean Whitestone.

MIDDLESBROUGH (0) **1**
Castledine 65

BRISTOL CITY (0) **1**
Randell 90
ATT: 34,988

Middlesbrough: Brynn, Brittain, Ayling, Malanda, Targett, Morris, Browne, Hackney (Gilbert 72), McGree (Strelec 59), Sarmiento (Castledine 60), Conway (Edmundson 90). **Booked:** Conway 88.
Bristol City: Vitek, Sykes, Eile, Knight, Pring, McCrorie, Randell, Morsy (Horvat 82), Twine (Bird 78), Armstrong (Bell 68), Jakobsen. **Booked:** Eile 35, Pring 43, Morsy 53, Twine 53, Armstrong 58.
Ref: Stephen Martin.

MILLWALL (0) **1**
Cundle 54

BLACKBURN (0) **2**
Jorgensen 80, 85
ATT: 17,802

Millwall: Patterson, McNamara (Ivanovic 46), Crama, Cooper, Sturge, Bannan (Bryan 64), Mitchell (Smallbone 84), Azeez, Neghli, Langstaff (Cundle 46), Coburn (Mazou-Sacko 84). **Sent-off:** Sturge 59.
Blackburn: Toth, Carter (Atcheson 43), McLoughlin, Cashin, Alebiosu, Gardner-Hickman, Forshaw (Baradji 76), Yuri Ribeiro (Jorgensen 62), Morishita, Cantwell (Afolayan 62), Ohashi. **Booked:** Atcheson 90. **Ref:** Andrew Kitchen.

NORWICH (2) **2**
Ahmed 17, McLean 39

PRESTON (0) **0**
ATT: 25,285

Norwich: Kovacevic, Stacey, Darling, Cordoba, Chrisene (Fisher 60), Mattsson (Field 61), McLean, Gibbs, Ben Slimane (Maghoma 61), Ahmed (Forson 88), Kvistgaarden (Mundle-Smith 61). **Subs not used:** Moulden, Medic, Marcondes, Wright. **Booked:** Ben Slimane 13.
Preston: Iversen, Offiah (Potts 64), Storey, Lindsay, Hughes, Small (Brady 81), Moran (Devine 64), Whiteman (Smith 81), Thompson (Valentin 65), Jebbison, Dobbin. **Subs not used:** Cornell, Vukcevic, Lukovic, Osmajic. **Booked:** Potts 87.
Ref: Gavin Ward.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Coventry	38	23	8	7	78	40	77
Middlesbrough	38	20	10	8	59	37	70
Ipswich	37	19	11	7	66	38	68
Millwall	38	20	8	10	52	43	68
Hull	38	19	6	13	59	56	63
Wrexham	37	16	12	9	57	47	60
Southampton	37	15	12	10	60	48	57
Derby	37	15	9	13	54	48	54
Birmingham	38	14	11	13	48	48	53
Watford	37	13	13	11	47	45	52
Swansea	38	15	7	16	44	46	52
Norwich	37	15	6	16	51	45	51
Stoke	38	14	9	15	45	40	51
Bristol City	38	14	9	15	49	49	51
Sheff Utd	38	15	5	18	53	52	50
QPR	38	14	8	16	49	60	50
Preston	38	12	13	13	42	48	49
Charlton	38	12	12	14	36	45	48
Blackburn	38	11	9	18	36	49	42
Portsmouth	36	10	10	16	36	47	40
West Brom	38	10	10	18	39	54	40
Oxford Utd	38	9	12	17	36	49	39
Leicester	38	11	11	16	51	60	38
Sheff Wed	38	1	9	28	23	76	-6

OXFORD UTD (0) **1**
Brannagan 57 (pen)

CHARLTON (0) **1**
Kelman 90 (pen)
ATT: 11,325

Oxford Utd: Cumming, Long, Helik, Brown, Currie, Konak (McDonnell 65), Brannagan, Mills (Vaulks 84), Donley (Spencer 78), Emakhu (Placheta 65), Lankshear (Prelec 77). **Booked:** Helik 38, Mills 77, Brown 90.
Charlton: Mannion, Ramsay (Kelman 60), Jones, Bell, Clarke, Carey, Coventry (Fevrier 68), Docherty (Fullah 82), Chambers (Rankin-Costello 82), Leaburn, Campbell. **Booked:** Chambers 30, Clarke 50, Bell 66, Rankin-Costello 90.
Ref: Matthew Donohue.

SHEFF WED (0) **0**

IPSWICH (0) **2**
Azon 78, Clarke 83 (pen)
ATT: 23,437

Sheff Wed: Charles, Fusire, Iorfa, Otegbayo, Palmer, Adaramola, Heskey (Chalobah 80), Thornton (Ndala 65), Ingelsson (Nakamba 90), Yates (Grainger 89), Lowe (Moses 80). **Booked:** Thornton 50, Fusire 54, Adaramola 57.
Ipswich: Walton, Furlong, O'Shea, Greaves, Johnson, Matusiwa, Neil (Taylor 66), Walle (W Burns 46 (Philogene-Bidace 74)), Mehmeti (Akpom 66), Clarke, Hirst (Azon 66). **Booked:** W Burns 57.
Ref: Tom Reeves.

STOKE (1) **3**
Manhoef 28, 77
Gallagher 85

WATFORD (0) **1**
Irankunda 81
ATT: 22,085

Stoke: Simkin, Tchamadeu, Talovierov, Phillips, Bocat (Gibson 70), Nzonzi (Seko 83), Rigo, Manhoef (Rak-Sakyi 79), Bae (Pearson 79), Thomas, Smit (Gallagher 71). **Booked:** Rigo 17, Thomas 50, Talovierov 60, Simkin 72.
Watford: Selvik, Abankwah, Goglichidze, Mfuni (Bove 86), Bola, Ince (Lawson 71), Louza (Kjerrumgaard 86), Mendy (Ekwah 71), Chakvetadze, Kayembe, Semedo (Irankunda 62). **Booked:** Mendy 51, Irankunda 90. **Ref:** Leigh Doughty.

WEST BROM (1) **3**
Maja 24
Heggebo 67, Price 90

HULL (0) **0**
ATT: 23,245

West Brom: O'Leary (Griffiths 66), Imray, Phillips, Campbell, Styles, Wallace (Jimoh 67), Molumby, Diakite (Mowatt 83), Price (Whitwell 90), Maja, Heggebo (Dike 84). **Booked:** Diakite 61.
Hull: Pandur, Ajayi, Egan, Hughes, Coyle (Hadziahmetovic 45), Slater, Crooks (Joseph 75), Millar (Drameh 39), Gelhardt (Belloumi 75), Koumas (Lundstram 75), McBurnie. **Sent-off:** Hughes 36, **Booked:** Crooks 51, McBurnie 61, Gelhardt 70, Lundstram 88.
Ref: Josh Smith.

WEEK AHEAD

(7.45 unless stated)

TODAY
Premier League
Brentford v Wolves (8)
Sky Bet Championship
Portsmouth v Derby (8)

TUESDAY
UEFA Champions League
Round of 16 Second Leg
Arsenal (1) v B Leverkusen (1) (8)
Chelsea (2) v PSG (5) (8)
Man City (0) v Real Madrid (3) (8)
Sporting (0) v Bodo/Glimt (3) (5.45)
Sky Bet Championship
Watford v Wrexham
Sky Bet League One
AFC Wimdon v Leyton Orient
Barnsley v Wigan (8)
Blackpool v Port Vale
Bolton v Doncaster
Bradford v Mansfield
Burton Albion v Reading
Cardiff v Wycombe
Huddersfield v Lincoln City
Luton v Exeter
Peterborough v Rotherham
Plymouth v Stevenage
Stockport v Northampton
Sky Bet League Two
Accrington v Notts County
Bristol Rovers v Shrewsbury
Cheltenham v Crewe
Chesterfield v Oldham
Crawley Town v Barnet
Gillingham v Swindon
Grimsby v Fleetwood Town
Newport v Bromley (7.30)
Salford City v Barrow
Tranmere v Harrogate Town
Walsall v Cambridge Utd
Enterprise National League
Brackley v Solihull Moors
Gateshead v Wealdstone
Southend v Rochdale
Truro City v Scunthorpe
Woking v Yeovil
William Hill Scottish League 1
Inverness CT v Peterhead
William Hill Scottish League 2
Spartans v Forfar

WEDNESDAY
UEFA Champions League
Round of 16 Second Leg
Barcelona (1) v Newcastle (1) (5.45)
B Munich (6) v Atalanta (1) (8)
Liverpool (0) v Galatasaray (1) (8)
Tottenham (2) v Atl Madrid (5) (8)
Sky Bet Championship
Southampton v Norwich
Sky Bet League Two
MK Dons v Colchester (8)
Women's Super League
Chelsea v Brighton (7)
West Ham v Man Utd (7.15)

THURSDAY
UEFA Europa League
Round of 16 - Second Leg
Aston Villa (1) v Lille (0) (8)
Midtjylland (1) v N Forest (0) (5.45)
UEFA Europa Conference
League Round of 16 Second Leg
Larnaca (0) v Cry Palace (0)
(5.45)

FRIDAY
Premier League
Bournemouth v Man Utd (8)
Sky Bet Championship
Preston v Stoke (8)
William Hill Scottish Ch'ship
Partick v St Johnstone

(3 unless stated)

SATURDAY
Premier League
Brighton v Liverpool (12.30)
Everton v Chelsea (5.30)
Fulham v Burnley
Leeds v Brentford (8)
Sky Bet Championship
Blackburn v Middlesbrough (12.30)
Bristol City v West Brom
Charlton v Norwich
Derby v Birmingham (12.30)
Hull v Sheff Wed
Ipswich v Millwall (12.30)
QPR v Portsmouth
Sheff Utd v Wrexham
Southampton v Oxford Utd
Swansea v Coventry (5.15)
Watford v Leicester
Sky Bet League One
AFC Wimbledon v Peterborough
Barnsley v Doncaster
Burton Albion v Bradford
Cardiff v Blackpool (12.30)
Leyton Orient v Wycombe
Lincoln City v Rotherham
Luton v Stockport County (12.30)
Mansfield v Northampton
Plymouth v Huddersfield
Port Vale v Bolton
Stevenage v Reading
Wigan v Exeter
Sky Bet League Two
Accrington v Chesterfield
Bromley v Colchester
Cambridge Utd v Salford (12.30)
Fleetwood Town v Crawley Town
Gillingham v Bristol Rovers
Grimsby v Barrow
MK Dons v Barnet (12.30)
Notts County v Cheltenham
Oldham v Harrogate Town
Shrewsbury v Crewe
Tranmere v Swindon
Walsall v Newport County
Enterprise National League
Altrincham v Southend
Boreham Wood v Gateshead
Braintree Town v Scunthorpe
Carlisle v Boston Utd
Forest Green v Wealdstone
Hartlepool v Eastleigh
Rochdale v Tamworth
Solihull Moors v FC Halifax (5.30)
Sutton Utd v Truro City
Woking v Aldershot (12.30)
Yeovil v Morecambe
York v Brackley
Women's Super League
Arsenal v West Ham (12)
London City v Chelsea (12)
Man City v Tottenham (12)
Man Utd v Everton (12)
William Hill Scottish Premiership
Falkirk v St Mirren
Hearts v Dundee
Kilmarnock v Livingston
Motherwell v Hibernian
Rangers v Aberdeen (5.45)
William Hill Scottish Ch'ship
Arbroath v Queen's Park
Ayr v Morton
Raith v Airdrieonians
Ross County v Dunfermline
William Hill Scottish League 1
Alloa v Inverness CT
Cove Rangers v Hamilton
Peterhead v Montrose
Queen of South v East Fife
Stenhousemuir v Kelty Hearts
William Hill Scottish League 2
Clyde v Stranraer
Dumbarton v Annan Athletic
East Kilbride v Stirling
Edinburgh City v Elgin
Forfar v Spartans

SUNDAY
Carabao Cup Final
Arsenal v Man City (4.30)
Premier League
Aston Villa v West Ham (2.15)
Newcastle v Sunderland (12)
Tottenham v Nottm Forest (2.15)
Women's Super League
Brighton v Liverpool FC (12)
Leicester v Aston Villa (2.45)
William Hill Scottish Premiership
Dundee Utd v Celtic (12.30)

1-2-X CHECK

POOLS NUMBER	FULL TIME
1	1
2	2
3	1a
4	2
5	3
6	1
7	2
8	1a
9	3
10	3
11	1a
12	1a
13	3
14	1a
15	1
16	3
17	1a
18	1
19	1
20	1
21	1a
22	1
23	1
24	3
25	1a
26	2
27	3
28	3
29	1
30	1
31	1a
32	1a
33	2
34	1
35	1
36	1a
37	2
38	1a
39	1a
40	1
41	1a
42	1a
43	3
44	1
45	3
46	2
47	1
48	1a
49	2

LEAGUE TWO

COLCHESTER (0) **0**

CRAWLEY TOWN (0) **0**
ATT: 5,167

BARNET (1) **1**
Stead 32

NEWPORT COUNTY (0) **2**
Kamwa 65, Crole 83
ATT: 2,256

Barnet: Slicker, Senior, Collinge, Tavares, Crichlow-Noble, Ofoborh, Hartigan (Shelton 74), Glover, Stead (Browne 84), Kanu (Hawkins 74), Tshimanga. **Booked:** Glover 77.
Newport County: Wright, Evans, Jenkins, Baker, Delaney, Davies (Thomas 79), Spellman (Lloyd 19), Sprangler, Biggins (Smith 90), Baker-Richardson (Crole 46), Kamwa (Nyakuhwa 80). **Booked:** Davies 59, Sprangler 75.
Ref: Oliver Mackey.

BARROW (0) **0**

ACCRINGTON STANLEY (0) **0**
ATT: 2,417

Barrow: Stanway, Jackson, MacDonald, Canavan, Shipley, Harper, McCann, Earing, Walker (Fletcher 86), Gordon, Rose (Newby 66). **Subs not used:** Winterbottom, Thompson, Powell, Foley. **Booked:** Shipley 30, McCann 31.
Accrington Stanley: Wright, Matthews, Rawson, Sass, Woods, Butterfield (Martin 78), Grant, Brown, Madden, Whalley, Abimbola (Conneely 57). **Booked:** Butterfield 40, Woods 72, Martin 90.
Ref: Martin Coy.

BROMLEY (1) **1**
Hondermarck 18

BRISTOL ROVERS (0) **0**

Bromley: Smith, Ifill, Sowunmi, Debrah, Odutayo, Charles, Whitely (Ajayi 79), Thompson (Dinanga 79), Hondermarck, Pinnock, Kabamba. **Booked:** Pinnock 88.
Bristol Rovers: Young, Balmer, Lockyer, Mola, Senior, Smallwood (Thomas 77), De Havilland (Thompson-Sommers 58), Sparkes, Rijks (Quigley 46), Cavegn (Forde 46), Harrison (Akhamrich 46). **Booked:** Forde 50. **Sent-off:** Forde 81.
Ref: Elliot Bell.

CAMBRIDGE UTD (2) **5**
Ball 2, Appere 36
Cirino 50 (og), KaiKai 54
Lavery 90

GILLINGHAM (0) **0**
ATT: 7,490

Cambridge Utd: Eastwood, Gibbons (Raggett 73), Jobe, Watts, Bennett, Ball (Kouassi 80), Mpanzu, Brophy (Purrington 66), KaiKai (Smith 66), Knight, Appere (Lavery 66).
Gillingham: Morris, Smith, Akomeah, Clark, Rowe (McCleary 76), Khumbeni (Vokes 46), Waldock, Williams (Little 61), Cirino (Beckles 61), Palmer-Houlden (Dack 61), Hale. **Booked:** Cirino 28, Smith 42, Dack 84.
Ref: Michael Barlow.

CREWE (0) **0**
ATT: 5,885

WALSALL (1) **3**
Adomah 4, 90, Pressley 83

Crewe: Lawlor, Billington, Pond, Demetriou, Hutchinson (Connolly 52), Powell (Bogle 52), Thomas (Sanders 72), O'Reilly, Holicek (Lankester 72), Agius, March (Tezgel 72). **Booked:** Pond 16, Lawlor 30.
Walsall: Roberts, Browne (Pressley 66), Farquharson, Burke, Hancock, Jellis (Pattison 73), Comley, Lakin, Adomah, Kanu (Lopata 81), Okeke (Harper 66). **Booked:** Farquharson 12, Browne 55, Comley 90.
Ref: Stephen Parkinson.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bromley	37	20	13	4	60	36	73
MK Dons	37	20	11	6	74	37	71
Cambridge Utd	36	19	11	6	55	28	68
Notts County	36	19	7	10	56	37	64
Salford City	37	20	4	13	51	46	64
Swindon	37	19	6	12	60	45	63
Chesterfield	37	15	14	8	60	49	59
Grimsby	36	15	11	10	50	40	56
Crewe	37	16	8	13	53	46	56
Walsall	37	16	8	13	46	40	56
Colchester	36	14	11	11	50	39	53
Barnet	37	14	11	12	45	41	53
Oldham	35	13	13	9	40	31	52
Fleetwood Town	37	13	12	12	47	45	51
Accrington Stanley	36	13	9	14	38	37	48
Gillingham	36	11	12	13	43	52	45
Cheltenham	36	11	8	17	40	59	41
Shrewsbury	37	11	8	18	37	58	41
Bristol Rovers	37	11	4	22	37	59	37
Tranmere	37	9	9	19	48	65	36
Newport County	37	8	7	22	38	64	31
Crawley Town	37	6	12	19	35	58	30
Barrow	36	7	8	21	35	55	29
Harrogate Town	37	6	9	22	26	57	27

FLEETWOOD TOWN (0) **0**

TRANMERE (0) **0**
ATT: 3,204

Fleetwood Town: Lynch, Rooney, Haughey, Potter, Neal, Ennis, Bonds (Virtue 77), Helm (McLean 77), Clark, Evans (Norwood 66), Esapa Osong (Davies 67).
Tranmere: Marosi, Negru, Smith, McGowan, Norman, Kenneh (Plant 82), Blacker (Warrington 70), Brough, Obiero (Whitaker 64), Patrick (Solomon 64), Ironside (Lowe 82). **Booked:** Smith 38, Obiero 42, Brough 43. **Ref:** Emily Heaslip.

HARROGATE TOWN (0) **0**
ATT: 2,861

SALFORD CITY (0) **1**
Udoh 85

Harrogate Town: Gray, Headman (Cass 77), Heffernan, Gibson, Slater, Morris, Evans, Taylor (Muldoon 83), Brenan (Sutton 69), Smith (Duke-Mckenna 77), Acquah.
Salford City: Young, Longelo (Udoh 66), Turton, Oluwo, Cooper, Garbutt, Austerfield, Butcher (Ehibhatiomhan 66), Grant (Dorrington 90), Stockton (Borini 67), Graydon. **Booked:** Borini 84, Turton 90.
Ref: James Linington.

NOTTS COUNTY (2) **2**
Swinkels 36 (og)
Platt 45

CHESTERFIELD (2) **3**
Dobra 16, Naylor 44
Mandeville 66
ATT: 12,604

Notts County: Belshaw, McDonald, Platt (Macari 57), Bedeau, Tsaroulla (Jatta 78), Norburn, Palmer (Hall 58), Jones (Kouhyar 77), Iorpenda, Tangen (Bennetts 58), Dennis. **Booked:** Norburn 9. **Sent-off:** Norburn 19, **Booked:** Tsaroulla 42, Bedeau 90, Dennis 90.
Chesterfield: Hemming, Curtis (Donacien 46), McFadzean, Swinkels, Pearce (Duffy 46), Naylor (Owolabi-Belewu 87), Braybrooke, Markanday, Mandeville, Dobra (Stirk 87), Bonis (Grigg 76). **Booked:** Curtis 23, Swinkels 31, Naylor 45, Braybrooke 70. **Ref:** Matthew Corlett.

OLDHAM (0) **1**
Hawkes 82

GRIMSBY (0) **0**
ATT: 8,896

Oldham: Hudson, Sutton, Daniels, Monthe, Robson, Drummond (Hammond 75), Pett, Woods, Stevens (Hawkes 66), Fondop-Talom, Kavanagh (Garner 37). **Booked:** Hawkes 83, Woods 90.
Grimsby: Smith, Rodgers, Kacurri, McJannett, Sweeney (Staunton 86), Turi (Walker 55), McEachran (Amaluzor 86), Burns, Green, Sellars-Fleming (Kabia 65), Soonsup-Bell (Cook 46). **Booked:** McEachran 70, Amaluzor 90. **Ref:** Elliott Swallow.

SHREWSBURY (0) **0**
ATT: 5,876

CHELTENHAM (0) **2**
Thomas 63, Sherring 71

Shrewsbury: Cox, Kabia, Anderson (Benning 60), Boyle, Stubbs, Berkoe, McDermott (Lloyd 64), Sang, Perry (Freeman 77), Morgan (Scully 77), Ogunsuyi. **Booked:** Perry 35, Berkoe 90.
Cheltenham: Day, Sherring, Cundy, Wilson, Tomkinson, Stevenson (Ashfield 77), Thomas (Jude-Boyd 80), Young, Hutchinson (Deeming 84), Bickerstaff (Broom 84), Davison (Miller 83). **Booked:** Cundy 17, Young 19, Day 90. **Ref:** Lewis Sandoe.

SWINDON (0) **1**
Clarke 56
ATT: 8,833

MK DONS (1) **2**
Gilbey 36, Ekpiteta 79

Swindon: Ripley, Wright, Knight-Lebel, Tafazolli (Palmer 68), Batty, Clarke (Mabete 79), Nichols (Bodin 63), Kilkenny, Oldaker, Drinan, Hoilett (Holman 63). **Booked:** Wright 30, Hoilett 49.
MK Dons: MacGillivray, Ekpiteta, Sanders, Offord, Jones (Lemonheigh-Evans 71), Kelly (Nelson 71), Crowley (Hogan 60), Mellish, Wiles, Gilbey, Collins (Hepburn-Murphy 88). **Booked:** Crowley 47.
Ref: Jamie O'Connor.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE CUP
SUBWAY WOMEN'S LEAGUE CUP
WINNERS 2026

FINAL FLOURISH
Chelsea lift the League Cup after James (inset) opened the scoring

HOME, JAMES

CHELSEA	2
MAN UNITED	0

Chelsea boss tells Lauren and Co to take it easy on the celebrations

SONIA BOMPASTOR ordered her celebrating players to hit the snooze not the booze after leading Chelsea to a fourth-straight domestic trophy.

Lauren James grabbed the first goal inside 20 minutes in a player-of-the-match performance to mark joining brother and men's captain Reece in signing a new long-term Stamford Bridge deal last week.

Aggie Beever-Jones poked home a close-range second late on to give the scoreline a more comfortable look and help ease the pressure on French boss Bompastor (right) and her expensively-assembled squad as Chelsea retained the trophy with plenty to spare.

But with the midweek WSL clash against Brighton on the horizon, the celebrations were kept low-key as the players turned-in early.

Skipper Erin Cuthbert said: "We've got another game on Wednesday so the gaffer has already told us no celebration tonight."

Bompastor added: "We deserved this trophy because we fought hard for it.

"I just want the players to celebrate a little bit because we're playing again on Wednesday in an important game."

Chelsea never looked back after James cut in from the right to beat out of position keeper Phallon Tullis-Joyce at her near post to break the deadlock in front of a record League Cup final crowd of 21,619 at Bristol City's Ashton Gate.

The 24-year-old England forward said: "My Mum was here in the stands watching and I'm sure she will be proud.

"It's so nice to get another trophy and it's good to score a goal. It's in our DNA – we always find a way to win and we need to use this as another step forward to achieving our dreams."

With United a point and a place above Chelsea in the WSL, Marc Skinner claimed before kick-off that the 'vulnerable' reigning champions had lost their fear factor.

But after his troops suffered stage-fright to fall to a third straight major final defeat to their bogey side – and a 16th loss in their past 20 meetings – the Red Devils boss said: "From our perspective, Chelsea's goals were rubbish. I'm frustrated and so are the players, but we can't wallow in defeat.

"We've got great footballers but there are lessons to learn. We need to be more aggressive and more proactive in both boxes. We're rushing chances but we'll find the solution."

WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE ROUND-UP

LEADERS LACKING SPARK AFTER CITY BREAK

RUNAWAY leaders MANCHESTER CITY stuttered in their quest to move closer to the title as they were held to a frustrating goalless draw at lowly ASTON VILLA.

Andree Jeglertz's side looked disjointed on their return from the international break and the home side had the better chances.

"For us it's five games left and crucial games," said the City boss. "We will learn a lot from this." Olivia Smith and substitute Stina Blackstenius fired ARSENAL to within two points of second-placed Manchester United in a 2-0 victory at LONDON CITY LIONESSES.

Arsenal manager Renee Slegers said: "We didn't create as many opportunities as we usually do, but it is job done." Kelly Gago came off the bench to fire EVERTON to just a sixth league win of the campaign, at TOTTENHAM.

After Nicole Momiki put Everton ahead early on, Signe Gaupset looked to have snatched a point until Gago struck late.

LIVERPOOL boosted their survival bid with a 2-0 win over bottom club LEICESTER thanks to Beatta Olsson's early opener and a late penalty from Ceri Holland.

SUPER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man City	17	14	1	2	47	13	43
Man Utd	16	10	4	2	35	16	34
Chelsea	16	10	3	3	29	13	33
Arsenal	15	9	5	1	28	10	32
Tottenham	17	9	2	6	27	26	29
Everton	17	6	2	9	20	27	20
London City	17	6	1	10	18	29	19
Brighton	15	5	2	8	19	20	17
Aston Villa	17	4	5	8	22	36	17
Liverpool FC	17	3	4	10	17	27	13
West Ham	16	3	2	11	15	35	11
Leicester	16	2	3	11	8	33	9

ASTON VILLA (0) 0 Att: 3,388	**MAN CITY** (0)0
LIVERPOOL FC (1) 2 Olsson 10 Holland 89 (pen)	**LEICESTER** (0)0
LONDON CITY (0) 0 Att: 5,414	**ARSENAL** (1)2 Smith 15 Blackstenius 76
TOTTENHAM (0) 1 Gaupset 76	**EVERTON** (1)2 Momiki 12 Gago 83

SCOTTISH ROUND-UP

DETERMINED ROHL'S GRIN IT TO WIN IT

DANNY ROHL admits Hearts' Premiership title setback on Saturday night left him smiling after RANGERS moved to within three points of the leaders with a 1-0 win at managerless ST MIRREN.

The Jambos' 1-0 defeat by Kilmarnock opened the door for the Light Blues and they took advantage with left-back Tuur Rommens scoring his first Gers goal after 31 minutes for a first victory in four matches in all competitions.

With eight games remaining, the Ibrox side are three points behind Hearts and one point behind second-placed Celtic.

Rangers boss Rohl (above) said: "Yeah, I would be lying if I said I was not smiling after this [Hearts result]. But I know we have to deliver again next week.

"The team who is consistent until the end and take the right results, will win this league. After three good performances without the right result, we took the result.

"There's so much belief in our group, there's no doubt that we can achieve something this season, but you have to take the results and today we did."

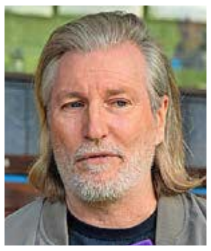
St Mirren battled hard but remain in 10th place, above Kilmarnock on goal difference.

DUNDEE came storming back with two dramatic stoppage-time goals to secure a 2-2 derby draw at home to fellow mid-table side DUNDEE UNITED.

The Terrors took the lead after the break when the impressive Amar Fatah slotted home a penalty before Luca Stephenson added a second.

Dundee pulled a goal back in the fourth minute of added time through substitute Ashley Hay and then two minutes later snatched a point when Terrors skipper Ross Graham put the ball into his own net.

NON-LEAGUE ROUND-UP



PRESSURE ON ROB AFTER SAVAGE RUN

FOREST GREEN are in danger of slipping out of the National League play-off places after going down 2-0 at promotion rivals SOUTHEND.

It is now just three wins from the last 13 matches for Robbie Savage's men.

The pressure is mounting on the Rovers boss and the Welshman (above) said: "If we keep playing like that it's going to be a tough last eight games.

"This was one of our worst performances, we were lacklustre and everything went wrong. If you can't fight and haven't got that desire then you deserve to lose."

Southend are just outside the play-off places, but have up to three games in hand.

YORK brought up a century of goals for the season with a 3-0 win at ALDERSHOT as the Minstermen closed in on Notts County's division record of 117. It still wasn't enough to claim top spot from ROCHDALE, who lead by two points with a game in hand after extending their 15-game unbeaten run with a 3-1 victory at EASTLEIGH to leave them three wins away from reaching 100 points.

CARLISLE are in a distant third place and threw away a lead to go down 2-1 at TAMWORTH.

The Cumbrians' goalscorer Stephen Wearne said: "It seems to be a common theme and it's nowhere near good enough. I can't imagine it was a great watch for the fans."

GATESHEAD took another step towards a great escape with a 1-1 draw at home to SUTTON.

Rob Elliot's side have taken 15 points from the last eight games to leave them two points adrift of safety after their survival hopes were written-off following a three-month, 16-match losing streak.